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CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

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CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

AND THE

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

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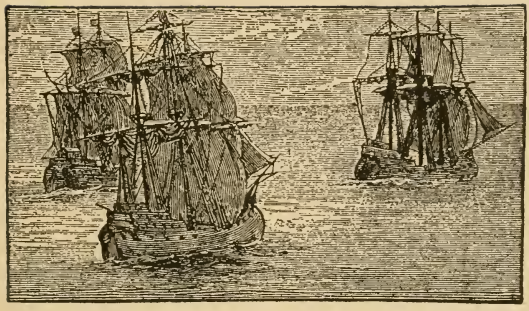


PREFACE.

THERE are few of the great personages in history who have been more talked about and written about than Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America. We are apt to look upon Columbus as a person who knew that there existed a great undiscovered continent, and who made his way directly to the discovery of that continent. Whereas, the dream of Columbus's life was to make his way by an unknown route to what was considered to be known.

The whole life of Columbus shows how rarely men of the greatest insight and foresight, and also of the greatest perse-

verance, attain the exact ends they aim at. He did not find the regions of the Khan; but he brought into relations the New World and the Old.

It is impossible to read without the deepest interest the account from day to day of his voyage. The first point of land that Columbus saw, and landed at, is as nearly as possible the central point of what must once have been the United Continent of North and South America. The least change of circumstance might have made an immense difference in the result. The going to sleep of the helmsman, the unshipping of the rudder of the *Pinzon*, the slightest mistake in taking an observation, might have made, and probably did make, considerable change in the event. During the first voyage of Columbus, the gentlest breeze carried with it the destinies of future empires.

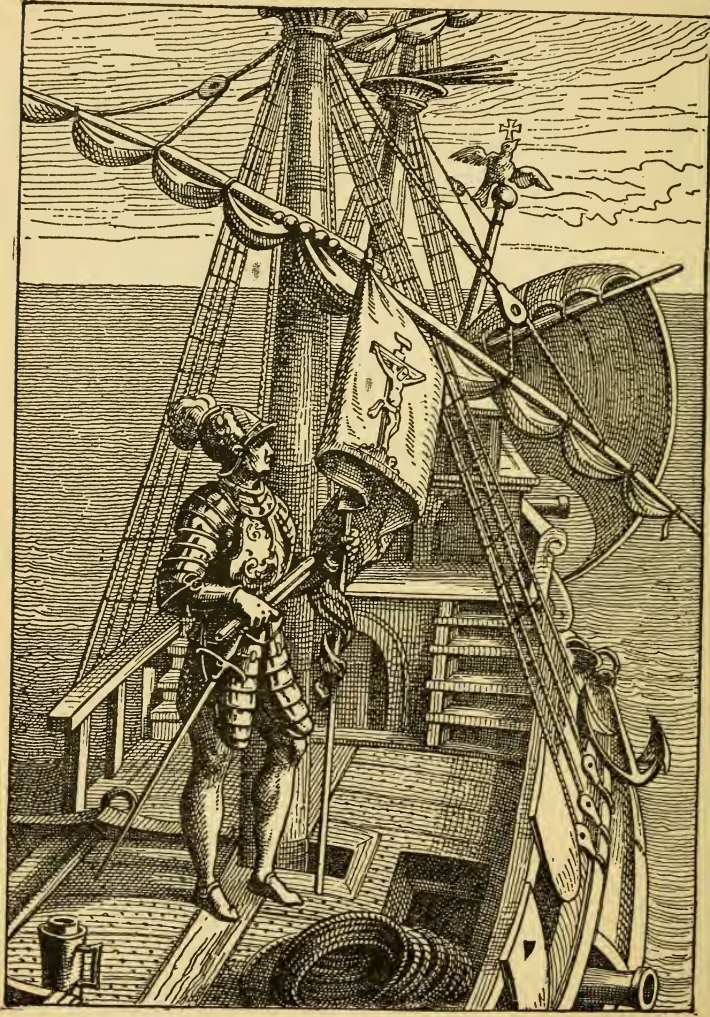
Had some breeze carried Columbus northwards, it would not have been left for the English, more than a century afterwards, to found those Colonies which have proved to be the seeds of the greatest nation that the world is likely to behold.

It was, humanly speaking, singularly unfortunate for Spanish dominion in America, that the earliest discoveries were those of the West India Islands. A number of governors introduced confusion, feebleness, and want of system,

into Colonial government. The numbers, comparatively few, of the original inhabitants of each island, were rapidly removed from the scene of action; and the Spaniards lacked, at the beginning, that compressing force which would have been found in the existence of a body of natives who could not have been removed by the outrages of Spanish cruelty.

The Monarchs of Spain, too, would have been compelled to treat their new discoveries and conquests more seriously. To have held the country at all they must have held it well. It would not have been Ojedas, Bobadillas and Ovandos who could have been employed to govern, discover, conquer, colonize, and ruin by their folly the Spanish possessions in the Indies. The work of discovery and conquest begun by Columbus must then have been intrusted to men like Cortes, the Pizarros, a Vasco de Nunez; and a colony or a kingdom founded by any of these men might well have remained a great colony, or a great kingdom to the present day.

The pictures found herein will throw light on the page in more ways than one. They have been taken from "De Bry's America" and "Herrara's West Indies," published in the year 1730 by authority of the King of Spain.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

CHAPTER I.

THE NEW WORLD.

AMERICA was discovered by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492. There are traditions of much earlier discoveries. The Northmen, inhabitants of Sweden and Norway, claim to have landed on the Western Continent, about the year 1000. These wandering Northmen had reached the shores of America first in the vicinity of Nantucket, and had given the name of Vinland to the region extending from beyond Boston to the south of New York. But the memory of these voyages seems totally to have passed away, or the lands were confounded with Greenland, to which the Pope had sent a bishop in 1448. This discovery cannot diminish the claims of Columbus.

These old Northmen made their home upon the sea, and lived by plundering from their neighbors. The early Britons suffered terribly from their raids. "Foes are they," sang an old English poet, "fierce beyond all other foes; cunning

as they are fierce ; the sea is their school of war, and the storm their friend ; they are the sea-wolves that live upon the pillage of the world."

A NORSE SHIP OF THE TENTH CENTURY.

The honor of discovering America, a few years before the first voyage of Columbus, has been claimed by the Spaniards for one of their country-

THE NORTHMEN AND THEIR SHIPS.

men, by the Germans for one of theirs, by the Venetians, the Portuguese, and the Poles; but on grounds the most vague and unsatisfactory.

Even allowing these discoveries to have taken place it does not detract from the glory of Columbus as the man who first really united America and Europe. He was unaware of any previous voyages to this quarter of the globe, and his wonderful adventure has led to the most important results; while the others, granting them to have occurred, have been barren of results.

The discovery of America stirred Europe to its deepest foundations. All classes of men were affected. The people went wild at once with a lust of gold, and a love of adventure.

Even the poor honor of giving his name to the Continent he discovered was curiously filched from him. Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian navigator, had made the acquaintance of Columbus on his return from one of his early voyages. He went out with Ojeda, in his voyage in 1500, and explored several hundred miles of the coast of South America. He wrote an account of this voyage, and of a subsequent one to Brazil, which were read before some noble families in Italy. A German geographer on the strength of these letters, in 1507, called the new Continent *America Terra*, and hence our name of America.

The name of Columbus was written Columbo, in Italian. He Latinized his name as was the custom in those days when Latin was the language of learned correspondence. In Spanish history he is known as Christoval Colon.

AMERIGO VESPUCCI.

Columbus never knew the nature of his own discovery. He died in the belief that it was some part of Asia; and Vespuccci held the same idea. If Columbus failed in his attempts to reach India by sailing to the west, Vasco de Gama succeeded by sailing to the south.

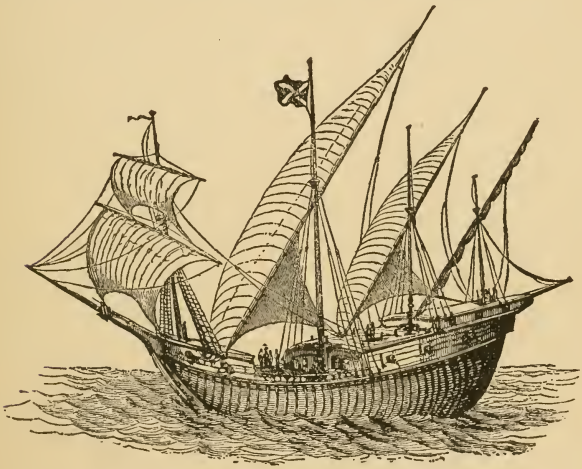
CHAPTER II.

FIFTEENTH CENTURY DISCOVERIES.

Modern familiarity with navigation renders it difficult for us to properly appreciate the greatness of the enterprise which was undertaken by the discoverers of the New World. Seen by the light of science and of experience, the ocean, if it had some real terrors, had no imaginary ones. It was different in the fifteenth century. Geographical knowledge was but just awaking, after ages of slumber; and throughout those ages the wildest dreams had mingled fiction with fact. The half-decked vessels that crept along the Mediterranean shores were but ill-fitted to bear the brunt of the furious waves of the Atlantic. The use of the compass had scarcely become known to navigators; and who could tell, it was objected, that a ship which might succeed in sailing down the waste of waters would ever be able to return, for would not the voyage home be a steady journey up a mountain of sea?

But the same traditions that set forth the difficulties of reaching the unknown countries, prom-

ised a splendid reward to the successful voyager. Rivers rolling down golden sand, mountains shining with priceless gems, forests fragrant with rich spices were among the solid advantages to be expected as a result of the enterprise. "Our



CARAVEL BEFORE THE WIND.

quest there," says one of the old historians, "is not for the vulgar products of Europe." And there was another object besides gain, which was in the minds of all the early explorers, namely, the spread of the Christian religion.

The known world in the time of Prince Henry of Portugal was a very small one indeed. With the map before us we can see how small was our infant world. First take away those two continents (each much larger than a Europe), to the far west. Then cancel the big island on the extreme south-east. Then turn to Africa. Instead of the form which it now presents, make a scimiter shape of it by running a slightly curved line from Jaba on the eastern side to Cape Nam on the western. Declare all below that line unknown. "Where you know nothing, place terrors," was the rule of the early geographers.

Now looking at the map, we can hardly help thinking to ourselves with a smile, what a small space the known history of the world has been done in, up to the last 400 years. The idea of the universal dominion of Rome shrinks a little.

Prince Henry was born in Portugal, in 1394. He was with his father at the capture of Centa, in the year 1415. This town, which lies opposite to Gibraltar, was of great magnificence, and one of the chief marts in that age for the products of the eastern world. It was here that Portugal first planted a firm foot in Africa; and the date to this town's capture may be taken as the time when Prince Henry began to plan further and far greater conquests. He was very learned, for

that age of the world, and learned from the Moors of Morocco such knowledge as could be gathered of the remote districts of Africa.

The Prince having got the idea in his mind that Africa did not end at Cape Nam, never rested until he had

made known that quarter of the world to his own. He lived at Sagres, where for many a year

he could watch for the white sails bringing back his captains to tell him of new countries and new men.

For a long time Cape Bojador (meaning outstretcher), which is 200 miles south of Cape Nam, was the extreme limit of discovery. Beyond this Cape, the mariners reported, "were no people whatever; the lands bare, no water, no trees, or grass on it; the sea is shallow, and the currents fierce; and the ship which passes that cape will never return."

For twelve years the Prince kept sending out ships and men; with little approval from his people. The captains came back with no good tidings; still he would not give up. At last one of his captains passed the dreaded Cape Bojador, and brought back the news that the soil appeared to him unworked and fruitful; and like a prudent man he brought home a barrel of the new-found earth, and some plants. The Prince rejoiced to see them and gave thanks to God.

Stormy times now came upon Portugal, and the Prince had to give his attention to home matters for awhile. In 1441 a voyage was planned which went 150 miles below Bojador. The captain seized some Moors, to take home, as he said "some of the language of their country." The Prince now applied to the Pope to grant Portugal all the

lands conquered from Bojador to the Indies. The Pope granted this request; although afterwards as we shall see, the Spanish discoveries of Columbus made it necessary that the terms of the grant had should be modified.

In 1444 a company was formed for the purpose of coasting along Africa; they to pay to Portugal a portion of any gains they might

make. Thus began the slave trade. Before this time the slave had been the captive of war, who lived with his conqueror, and toiled on his lands. Now the slave became the object of war. He was to be sought for, to be hunted out, to be produced and this change gave rise to a new branch of commerce.

In 1454, a young Venetian named Mosto was detained by bad winds at Cape St. Vincent. Prince Henry told him of the things he had done, showed him samples of the goods that came from the newly discovered lands; and finally induced him to take charge of a vessel. From him we learn that Arguim was the headquarters of the trade. There came all kinds of goods to be exchanged for gold and slaves. Barbary horses were taken to the negro country, and traded with the chiefs for slaves, eighteen men being bartered for one horse. Every year between 700 to 800 slaves are sent from here to Portugal.

Mosto sailed down to Jalofs, and describes the negroes on the shores of the Senegal River. He is said to have gone 800 miles farther, entering the river Gambia, where he was attacked by the natives. During his stay in this river he saw the constellation of the Southern Cross, for the first time. Finding the negroes would have nothing to do with him, he returned to Portugal.

On a second voyage two years later he discovered the Cape Verde Islands. He again went up the Gambia River, this time making friends

PRINCE HENRY OF PORTUGAL.

with the negroes; but for want of a knowledge of their language he could do no business with

them. In a voyage taken some time between 1460 and 1464 Sierra Leone (roaring thunder) was discovered. In 1469 the Gold Coast was explored; and a fort built there which Columbus afterwards visited. Prince Henry died in 1463.

About this time came an officer from a territory between the Gold Coast and the Congo, who spoke about a greater power in Africa than his master, to whom his master was but as a vassal. This set the Portuguese King thinking about Prester John, of whom legends spoke as a Christian King ruling over a Christian nation, somewhere in what was vaguely called the Indies.

The King sent out another expedition on further discovery. They did not discover Prester John, but after sailing more than 1000 miles they reached a cape, which from their experience, they called Cape Stormy, but which their master renamed the Cape of Good Hope. Bartholomew Columbus, a brother of Christopher, was engaged in this voyage.

The Prince of Jalof now came to Lisbon, to seek the King's protection. He was well received and made much of; and was sent back to his own country with a Portuguese fleet of twenty caravels, with orders to build a fort on the bank of the river Senegal.

We have now seen Portuguese discovery

making its way with quiet perseverance for 70 years from Cape Nam to the Cape of Good Hope, a distance of 6000 miles. This long course of discovery was thrown into the shade by the more daring and brilliant discovery of America.

Prince Henry was hardly less a personage than Columbus. They had different elements to contend with, but the man with princely wealth and position who had followed his purposes for 40 years, heedless of public clamor, is worthy to be put in comparison with the other great discoverer who worked out his enterprise through poverty, neglect, sore travail and the changes of courts.

It must not be forgotten that Prince Henry was the father of modern geographical discovery, and that the result of his labors must have given much impulse to Columbus, if it did not first move him to his great discovery. His kinsman, too, deserves merit for what he did, as do the many brave captains who distinguished themselves in those enterprises.

It remained for Columbus, first to form a sound theory of the various views of the cosmographers, and to carry out that theory with the boldness and resolution which have made his name one of those beacon-fires which carry on from period to period the tidings of the world's great history through successive ages.

CHAPTER III.

THE BOYHOOD OF COLUMBUS.

Of the early years of Columbus nothing certain is known. A dozen different Italian cities claimed the honor of giving him birth. It is only recently that the will was found in which Columbus left part of his property to the Bank of Genoa, and settled the point in favor of that city. "Thence I came," he says "and there was I born."

As to the date of his birth there is no such direct evidence; and guesses founded on various statements in his own writings, and in those of people living at the same period, range over the twenty years from 1436 to 1456. Washington Irving adopts the earliest of these two dates upon the report which speaks of the death of Columbus in the year 1506, "at a good old age, being seventy years old, a little more or less." This statement does not tally with some passages in Columbus's own letters. His son Fernando tells us "his hair turned white before he was thirty." This would add to his apparent age, and most likely deceived those around him at the time of

his death. The evidence of the ancient authorities, who seem most to be relied upon, points to the year 1448 as being the probable date of his birth.

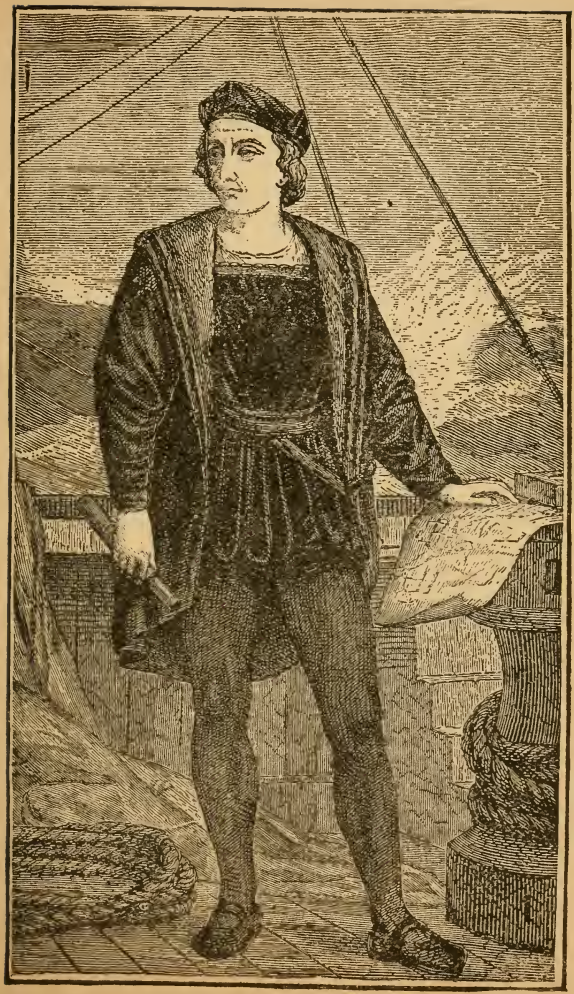
More than one noble family laid claim to him after his name had become so illustrious. His son, Fernando, who wrote his history, made a journey solely to inquire into the truth of this subject, and gave up all claims of the kind. In making this admission, he wisely said, "The glory of Christopher is quite enough, without there being a necessity to borrow any from his ancestors."

The father of Columbus was a wool-carder, but in a city of traders like Genoa this fact does not imply, as some have thought, that his family was of particularly humble origin. Columbus was the eldest of four children, having two brothers, Bartholomew and Diego. Christopher's education was but limited, but as extensive as the circumstances of his parents would permit. While quite a child he was taught to read and write, and wrote so good a hand, says Las Casas, that with it he might have earned his bread. To this, at a somewhat later period, was added arithmetic, drawing and painting, and in these, as Las Casas has observed, he acquired sufficient skill to have gained a livelihood.

He was sent for a short time to Pavia, the great school of learning in Lombardy. Here he studied grammar, and became well acquainted with the Latin tongue. His education, however, was mainly directed to those sciences needed to fit him for maritime life. He was taught geometry, geography, astronomy, or, as it was at that time termed, astrology, and navigation. He had, at a very early age, shown a strong passion for geographical science, and an ever-longing desire for the sea; and he pursued with ardor every study that would help him in the aim of life that he seems to have thus early mapped out for himself.

It is no wonder that, exposed to such influences, he should have favored a life of adventure on the sea to the the drudgery of his father's trade in Genoa. After finishing his school studies, he spent but a few months as a carder of wool, and actually entered on his sailor career before he was fifteen years old.

Considering how much more real the hero of a story appears if we can picture him accurately in our mind's eye, and see him "in his habit as he lived," it is singularly unfortunate that the personal appearance of Columbus has been so variously described by the old writers of history that it is impossible to speak with any certainty on the subject. Strangely enough, too, no really true



COLUMBUS IN HIS YOUTH.

portrait of the great discoverer exists. Fernando Columbus, who would be a good authority, fails to give us, in telling of his father, any of those little touches which make up a good literary photograph. We learn, however, that he was a man of fine presence, tall, well formed, strong, active and full of energy. His face was long, but neither full nor meagre ; his complexion fair and freckled, his nose aquiline, his cheek bones rather high, and his eyes light gray and full of expression. His hair was naturally light in color, but as we have already stated, it turned nearly white while he was yet a young man.

He was moderate and simple in his diet and apparel, a good talker, humane, self-denying, courteous, and had the happy faculty of readily making friends with strangers.

He possessed an inquiring mind, and was singularly resolute and enduring. He was rapt in his designs, having a ringing for ever in his ears of great projects, making him deaf to much, perhaps, that prudence might have heeded ;— one to be loved by those near to him, and likely by his presence to inspire favor and respect.

Of his many voyages, which of them took place before, and which after, his coming to Portugal, we have no distinct record ; but we are sure that he traveled over a large part of the known world,

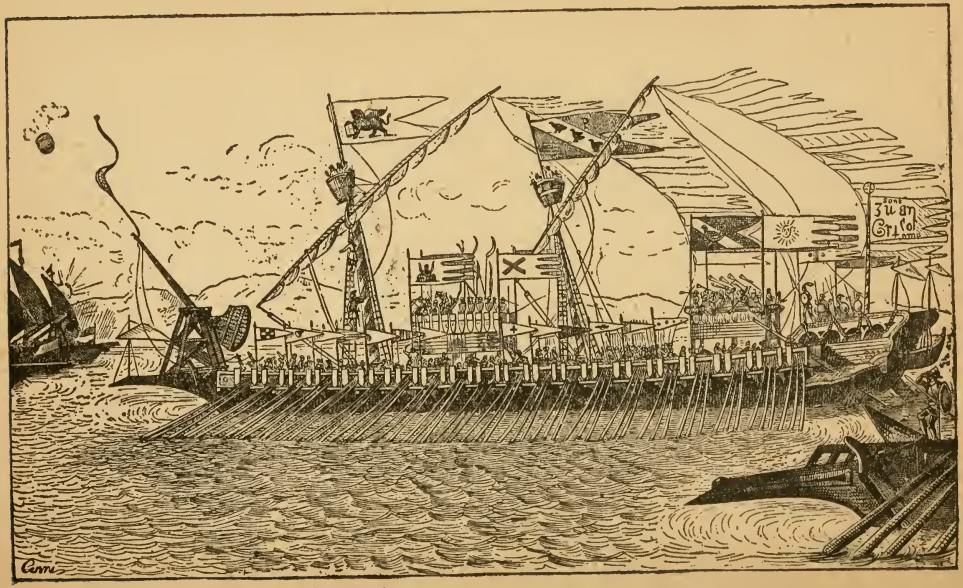
that he visited England, and that he made his way to Iceland, and Friesland (where he possibly heard the vague tales of the discoveries by the Northmen in North America), that he had been on the coast of Guinea, and that he had seen the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago. "I have been seeking out the secrets of nature for forty years," he says, "and wherever ship has sailed, there have I voyaged." But beyond a few vague hints of this kind, we know scarcely anything of these early voyages.

He particularly mentions in his letters to Ferdinand and Isabella, that he was employed by King Réné, of Provence, to cut out a galley from the port of Tunis. This exploit showed his boldness and his tact. During the voyage the news was brought that there were three other vessels with the galley. His crew did not wish to risk a fight and insisted that Columbus should return for more help. He made a show of doing so, but craftily altered the point of the compass so that it looked as though they were going back while they were really steering right ahead, and so arrived at Carthagena on the next morning, thinking all the while they were in full sail for Marseilles. It is a pity that no record exists of how this bold enterprise turned out.

There is an interval of many years during which

we have but one or two shadowy traces of Columbus. He is supposed to have been engaged in the Mediterranean and up the Levant, sometimes on voyages of commerce, sometimes in warlike contests between the Italian States, and sometimes in pious and plundering trips against the Infidels.

At what precise period his great idea came into his mind we have no means of learning. The long series of Portuguese discoveries had excited the mind of Europe, and must have greatly influenced Columbus, living in the midst of them. This may be said without in the least taking anything away from his merits as a discoverer. In real life people do not spring from something unreal to something real, as they do in sick dreams. A great invention or discovery is often like a daring leap, but it is from land to land, not from nothing to something; and if we look at the subject with this view fully before us, we shall be forced to admit that Columbus had as large a share in the merit of his discovery as most inventors or discoverers can lay claim to. If the idea which has made him famous was not in his mind at the outset of his career of investigation, at any rate he had from the first a desire for discovery, or, as he says himself, the wish to know the secrets of this world.



SHIPS IN THE TIME OF MARCO POLO.

We know that he arrived at a fixed belief that there was a way by the west of the Indies; that he could discover this way, and so come to the places he had met with in the gorgeous descriptions of Marco Polo, and other ancient travelers. Up to this time each new discovery was but a step beyond that which had gone before it. Columbus was the first to steer boldly from shore into the wild and unknown waste of waters, an originator, not a mere follower or improver of what had been done before.

Fernando Columbus divides into three classes the grounds on which his father's theory was based: first, reasons from nature; second, the authority of learned writers; and third, the reports of sailors. He believed the world to be a sphere; he under-estimated its size; and judged that Asia was larger than it really was. The farther Asia extended to the east the nearer it came round towards Spain. And this had been the view of all the old geographers; and the early travelers in their accounts all had the same idea of the vast extent of eastern Asia.

Of all the works of learned men that which had the most weight with Columbus was the "Cosmographia" by Cardinal Aliaco. This book was full of absurd fables of lion-bodied men and dog-faced women; and the accounts of the earth's

COLUMBUS AND THE EGG.

surface were mixed up with the wildest stories of monsters and salamanders, of giants and pigmies. These quaint figures appear in the earliest pictures of books of ocean travel. It is here we find the original of the sea-serpent, described as being "of huge size, so that he kills and devours large stags, and is able to cross the ocean." Other wonders of the unknown world are given, and these must have easily won the trusting faith of a willing disciple like Columbus.

He was confirmed in his views of the existence of a western route to the Indies by Toscanelli, to whom much credit is due for the kindly aid he afforded to Columbus in his first great enterprise.

That the notices of western lands were not such as to have much weight with most other men is proved by the trouble which Columbus had in struggling with adverse geographers and men of science, of whom, he says, he never was able to convince any one. After the new world had been discovered many scattered hints were then found to have foreshown it. When he promised a new world people said it could not exist, and when he had found it, that it had been known a long time. It was to show how little these people knew that he resorted to the well known expedient of making an egg stand on end.

AN EARLY ADVENTURE.

Of the hints he received from sailors it is difficult to speak with any degree of accuracy. Rumors of drift-wood, which appeared to be carved with some savage implements; of great reeds, like those which Ptolemy wrote about as growing in India, even of two corpses, cast up on one of the Azores, and presenting an appearance quite unlike that of any race of Europe or Africa; all seem to have come to the willing ears of Columbus, and to have been looked upon by him as strong proofs of the great theory. He felt that as the winds had drifted these from the west, they surely must have come from some unknown land in that direction.

About the year 1470 Columbus arrived at Lisbon. According to the account given by his son, he was on a cruise trying to capture some Venetian merchant vessels on their way home richly laden from Flanders. At break of day a battle began off Cape St. Vincent, and lasted till nightfall. The vessel commanded by Columbus grappled with a huge Venetian galley, which, after a hand-to-hand fight, caught fire, and the flames spread to Columbus's vessel. Friends and enemies alike sought safety by jumping into the sea, and Columbus, supporting himself on an oar, succeeded, when nearly exhausted, in gaining the land, which was some six miles dis-

tant. God saved him, says his son, for greater things.

While at Lisbon, he used to attend religious service at the chapel of the Convent of All Saints. Here he met Donna Palestrello. She was the daughter of an Italian cavalier, who had been one of the most noted sea captains under Prince Henry, and had colonized and governed the island of Porto Santo. His marriage with this lady fixed his residence there. Her father being dead, the newly married couple made their home with the mother. She seeing the great interest that Columbus took in all matters relating to the sea, told him all she knew of the voyages of her husband, and brought him all his papers, and charts and journals. To Columbus these were treasures. He studied over all the routes of the Portuguese, and their plans and ideas, and when the chance offered he sailed in the trips to Guinea. When on shore, he made maps and charts, which he sold for the support of his family.

We know but little of this period of his life. We find a few vague stories of his unsuccessful efforts to induce the Senate of Genoa to take up his project. From the Portuguese crown he could not look for help, as they were engaged in costly wars, and already had a field for discovery along the African coast. King John the Second, to

whom he applied, listened with attention to his scheme, which he gave a sort of half promise to support, but he seems to have disagreed with Columbus about the terms. He referred Columbus to his Council for Geographical Affairs. The plans were laid before them, but they reported against the rashness of the scheme. The King was not entirely satisfied and secretly fitted out a vessel and sent it out with instructions founded on the plans that Columbus had explained. The vessel returned without having done anything; the sailors not having had the heart to venture far enough westward. It was not an enterprise to be carried out with success by mere hirelings, or by men who had only stolen the idea of it.

CHAPTER IV.

COLUMBUS IN SPAIN.

Columbus, disgusted at the treatment he had received from the Portuguese Court, quitted Lisbon, for Spain, probably in the year 1485, with his son Diego, the only child of his marriage with Donna Felipa, now no longer living.

The first trace we have of him in Spain was given a few years after his death, by Garcia Fernandez, a doctor in the little seaport town of Palos, in Andalusia. About a mile from that town stood, and stands at the present day, an ancient convent of Franciscan friars, dedicated to Santa Maria de Rabida. According to the report of the doctor, a stranger, on foot, with a small boy, stopped one day at the gate of the convent, and asked of the porter a little bread and water for the child. While receiving this humble refreshment the prior of the convent, Friar Juan Perez, passed by, and was struck by the appearance of the stranger, and observing from his air and accent that he was a foreigner, entered into conversation with him, and soon learned his story.

That stranger was Columbus, and his young son Diego. That he was in poor circumstances is evident from the mode of his wayfaring.

Juan Perez was a man of large learning. He possessed that hearty zeal in friendship which carries good wishes into good deeds. He kept Columbus as his guest, and sent for his friend Doctor Fernandez to come and talk with him. Several meetings took place at the old convent, and the theory of Columbus was treated with a respect which it had in vain sought amid the bustle and pretension of Court sages and philosophers. Hints, too, were gathered from the veteran sailors which seemed to support the theory. Perez was on good terms with Talavera, who was confessor to the Queen, a man high in royal favor, and having great weight in public affairs. To him he gave Columbus a letter, strongly recommending himself and his enterprise to the good will of Talavera, and begging his friendly aid with the King and Queen. As the influence of the Church was very great in the Court of Castile, and as Talavera had direct access to the Queen, much was expected from his good offices. In the meantime, Perez took charge of the young son of Columbus, and kept and educated him at his convent.

Columbus arrived at Cordova early in the year 1486. Talavera was not friendly to the cause

AT THE CONVENT GATE.

of Columbus. He was taken up with military concerns, and absent with the Court in its wars against the Moors, as the clerical adviser of the Queen in this, as it was termed, holy war.

Amid the clang of arms and the bustle of war, it is not surprising that Colnmbus could get but slight attention to a matter which seemed so remote and uncertain.

During the summer and fall of 1486 Columbus remained at Cordova, supporting himself by the sale of maps and charts, and trusting to time and exertion to make him converts and friends that might prove useful. One of the best friends he gained was Quintanilla, the Queen's treasurer, a man who like himself "took delight in great things," and who got him a hearing from the Spanish monarchs. Ferdinand and Isabella listened kindly, and ended by referring the business to Talavera, whom they instructed to call a meeting of the most learned geographers and astronomers, who were to confer with Columbus and inform themselves of the grounds on which he founded his theory; after which they were to consult together and make their report. This junta, as it was called, met at Salamanca, the great seat of learning in Spain, in the year 1487. This was the first step gained.

The junta did not regard the scheme of Colum-

TALKING IT OVER WITH PEREZ.

bus with much favor. They were nearly all connected with the Church, and combined to crush Columbus with theological objections. Texts of Scripture were brought forward to refute the theory of the round shape of the earth, and the weighty authority of the early fathers of the Church was added to overthrow "the foolish idea of the existence of the antipodes; of people who walk opposite to us, with their heels upwards and their heads hanging down; where everything is topsy-turvy, where the trees grow with their branches downwards, and where it rains, hails and snows upwards." The book of Genesis in the Bible, the psalms of David, the orations of the prophets, the epistles of the apostles, and the gospels of the Evangelists, were all put in evidence against Columbus. It was impossible that there should be people on what was thus vainly asserted to be the other side of the earth, since none such were mentioned in the Bible. In fine, the junta decided that the project was "vain and impossible; and that it did not belong to the royalty of such great princes to determine anything upon such weak grounds of information."

Columbus could not reconcile his plan with the cosmography of Ptolemy, to which all scholars of that time yielded implicit faith. None of them knew that the man Copernicus was then in ex-

istence, whose solar system should reverse the grand theory of Ptolemy, which placed the earth in the centre of the universe.

The junta were interrupted by the departure of the Court to Cordova, early in the spring of 1487, called away by the concerns of the war, in the memorable battle against Malaga. Talavera went with the Queen as her confessor.

Ferdinand and Isabella seem not to have taken the extremely unfavorable report of the junta, or were disposed to dismiss Columbus gently, for they said that "with the wars at present on their hands, and especially that of Granada, they could not undertake any new expenses, but when the war was ended, they would examine his plan more carefully."

Thus ended a solicitation at the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella, which is said to have lasted five years; for the facts here mentioned, though short in the telling, occupied a long time in transaction. During the whole of this period Columbus appears to have followed the sovereigns in the movements from place to place, which the war made necessary, and to have been treated with much consideration. Sums were from time to time granted to him from the royal treasury for his private expenses, and he was billeted as a public officer in the various towns of Andalusia,

where the Court rested. But at the best, this must have been an up-hill task. Las Casas com-

ALONZO PINZON

pares the suit of Columbus to a battle, "a terrible, continuous, painful, prolix battle." The tide of this long battle having turned against him, Columbus went to Seville "with much sadness and discomfiture."

Columbus had given up all hope of aid from the Spanish monarchs, and now tried to find some rich man who would engage in the enterprise. Among others that he saw were the Duke of Medina Sidonia, and the Duke of Medina Celi, whose large possessions along the Spanish coast were likely to lead them to help his views. He must have received some encouragement, for when he succeeded, the Duke Celi wrote to the Cardinal of Spain, showing that he had kept Columbus two years at his house, and was ready to assist him in his enterprise, but that he saw that it was one for the Queen herself, and even then he wished to have some part of it.

Probably any man with whom Columbus lived for two years would have caught some portion of his enthusiasm, and been ready to take up his project, but none of the nobles of Spain would have been likely to have undertaken the matter without the sanction of the King and Queen. Celi advised Columbus to apply once more to the Queen and offered to use his influence with her in his behalf.

But some friends remained who shared his faith and urged him onward. Juan Perez, now guardian of the monastery at Rabida, had exchanged the bustle of the Court for the learned leisure of the cloister. The little town of Palos, with its seafaring population and maritime interests, was near the monastery, and the principal men of the place were glad to spend the long winter evenings in the society of Perez, over questions of geography and astronomy.

Among the visitors were Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the chief ship-owner of Palos, and Fernandez, the village doctor. Fernandez, who was skilled in the physical sciences, and therefore capable of appreciating the arguments of Columbus, became a warm believer in his project.

Columbus had given up his suit at Court in disgust, and called at the monastery before quitting Spain to fetch his son, Diego, whom he had left with Juan Perez to be educated. All his griefs and troubles he confided to Perez, who could not bear to hear of his intention to leave the country for France or England, and to make a foreign nation greater by allowing it to adopt his project.

The affection of Perez, and the learning of Fernandez, were not slow to follow in the track which the enthusiasm of the great adventurer made out before them, and they became as convinced

as Columbus himself of the feasibility of the undertaking. But the difficulty was in persuading those to believe who would have power to further the enterprise. Their discussion of these points ended in the conclusion that Perez, who was known to the Queen, should write to her highness. He did so, and owing to the honest zeal with which he urged the cause of Columbus, the result was favorable. The Queen sent for him, and he journeyed on to Santa Fe by night; she heard what he had to say, and in consequence, sent money to Columbus to enable him to come to Court, and renew his suit.

Columbus attended the Court again. He arrived in time to witness the surrender of Granada to the Spanish arms. He beheld the last of the Moorish Kings sally forth from the Alhambra, and yield up the keys of that great seat of power. It was a great day for Spain. After nearly 800 years of painful struggle the Crescent was completely cast down, and the Cross exalted in its place, and the flag of Spain was seen floating on the highest tower of the Alhambra. The moment had now arrived when the Monarchs stood pledged to attend to his proposals. They kept their word. Full of the grandeur of his enterprise, he would listen to none but princely conditions. The resumed deal-

ings were again broken off, this time on the ground that the largeness of his conditions could

THE LAST OF THE MOORISH KINGS.

not be granted. His enemies said his conditions were too large if he succeeded, and if he should

not succeed the conditions should come to nothing; they thought there was an air of trifling in granting such conditions at all.

And indeed they were very large; he was to be made an admiral at once, to be appointed viceroy of the countries he should discover, and to have one-eighth of the profits of the expedition.

Columbus now resolved to go to France, when Perez and Fernandez managed to get another hearing for Columbus from Cardinal Mendoza, who was pleased with him. The Cardinal was the most important person about Court. The King and Queen had him always at their side, in peace and war. He followed with them in all their wars, and they never took any measure of importance without consulting him.

Columbus offered in order to meet the objection to pay one-eighth part of the expenses of the expedition. Still nothing was done, and now finally Columbus determined to go to France, and indeed actually set off one day in January 1492, when Santangel, the receiver of the Church revenues of the Crown of Aragon, a man much devoted to the plans of Columbus, addressed the Queen, with all the energy that a man throws into his words when he is aware that it is his last time for speaking in favor of a thing which he has much at heart. He told her that he wondered that as

COLUMBUS BEFORE THE COURT.

she always had a lofty mind for great things, it should be wanting on this occasion. He tried to raise her jealousy by saying that the enterprise might fall into the hands of other princes, hinting at the eternal fame that Portugal had gained in this way.

He ended by saying that Columbus wanted but two vessels and about $1500. in money and that so great an enterprise ought not to be given up for the sake of such a trifling sum. These arguments falling in as they did, with those of Quintanilla, the treasurer, who has great influence with the Queen, prevailed. The Queen thanked these lords for their counsel; and said she would adopt it, but they must wait till the finances had recovered a little from the drain upon them caused by the conquest of Granada, or if it were wiser to carry it out at once, she would pledge her jewels to raise the needed money.

Santangel offered to advance the money required. Upon this Quintanilla sent to bring Columbus back to Court. He was overtaken six miles from Granada, returned to Santa Fe, where the Sovereigns were camped before Granada, was well received by Queen Isabella, and finally the agreement between him and their Catholic highness was settled.

Not much of King Ferdinand is seen in all

these dealings. It was known that he had looked coldly on the plans of Columbus. Henry the Seventh, of England, refused to adopt the project laid before him by Bartholomew Columbus, who went to England, and it is said, was "mocked and jeered at the English Court."

King Ferdinand seems to have looked at the whole affair as an instance of Isabella's good-natured sympathy with enthusiasts. His own cool and wary nature made him distrust this "pauper pilot, promising rich realms."

The conditions of Columbus, that he had held out so proudly for, were all "granted, by the King and Queen, at Santa Fe, in the Vega of Granada, April 17, 1492."

Thus gratified in his dearest wishes after delays that would have driven the ordinary man to despair, Columbus, on May 12, 1492, left the Court and set out joyfully for Palos. Eighteen years had passed from the time Columbus first got the idea before he was enabled to carry it into effect. Most of that time was passed in hopeless solicitation, amid poverty, neglect, and ridicule; the prime of his life had wasted away in the struggle, and he was 56 years old, when success came to him. His example should encourage the enterprising never to despair.

Armed with his Commission, Columbus left the

Court of Palos. His friends at the monastery were delighted that the scheme upon which they had pinned their faith was now to be launched. There was no delay in furnishing the funds. The town of Palos was ordered to provide two vessels within ten days. The difficulty now was to get sailors to man the vessels. The men did not want to risk their lives on what they looked upon as a crazy voyage. Columbus was allowed to press men into the service, but still they could not get enough men of the right stamp.

Juan Perez did much to get men to embark. The Pinzons, rich men, and skillful seamen, joined in the undertaking, and aided it with their money, and by these united efforts three vessels were manned with 90 sailors, and with provisions for a year. The vessels were all of small size.

The *Santa Maria*, which Columbus commanded, was the only one that was decked throughout. The officers and crew were 16 in number. The other two vessels were of that class called caravels, and were decked fore and aft, but had no deck in the middle ; the stem and stern being built so as to rise high out of the water. One of them, the *Pinta*, was manned by a crew of 30 sailors, and was commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon. The other, the *Nina*, had Vincent Pinzon as Captain, and a crew of 24 men. The

QUEEN ISABELLA IN CAMP.

whole number of adventurers amounted to 120 persons—men of various countries, one of them, Arthur Lake, coming from England, and another entered on the list as William Rice, native of Galway, Ireland.

A deep gloom was spread over the whole town of Palos. Almost every one had some relative or friend on board the squadron. The spirits of the sailors, depressed by their own fears, were still more cast down at the sorrow of those they left behind, who took leave of them with tears, as of men they were never to behold again.

By the beginning of August every difficulty had been overcome, and the vessels were ready for sea.

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST VOYAGE.

It was Friday, August 3, 1492, at eight o'clock in the morning, after they had all confessed and received the sacrament, that Columbus set sail on his first voyage of discovery. They sailed from the Bar of Saltes, making for the Canary Islands, from whence it was intended to sail west.

Columbus had now changed the long, weary, dismal life of a suitor for the sharp, intense anxiety of a struggle in which there was no choice to success but deplorable, ridiculous, fatal failure. Speaking afterwards of the time he had spent as a suitor at Court, he says, "Eight years I was torn with disputes, and, in a word, my proposition was a thing for mockery." It was now to be seen what mockery was in it. The following account of the voyage is mainly taken from an abridgment of Columbus's own diary made by Las Casas, who in some places gives the admiral's own words.

The little squadron reached the Canary Islands in a few days with no event worth recording, except that the caravel *Pinta* broke her rudder.

This was supposed to be no accident, but to have been done by the owners of the vessel, who did not like the voyage, and hoped she would be left behind. The crew had been pressed into the service greatly against their will, and the caravel had been seized for the expedition by the royal orders.

Columbus was much disturbed by this occurrence. The wind was blowing strongly at the time, so that he could not render any assistance without running some risk to his own vessel. Fortunately Martin Pinzon commanded the *Pinta*, and being an adroit and able seaman, he succeeded in securing the rudder with cords, so as to bring the vessel into management. They were detained three weeks among these islands seeking in vain to find another vessel. They were obliged to make a new rudder for the *Pinta*, and to repair her as well as they were able for the voyage.

The sails were changed into square sails, that she might work more steadily and securely, and be able to keep up with the other vessels.

While sailing among these islands they passed in sight of Teneriffe, whose lofty peak was sending out volumes of flame and smoke. The crew were terrified at the sight of this eruption. Columbus told them all about the causes of these volcanic fires, telling them of Mount Etna and other well-known volcanoes.

THE DEPARTURE FROM PALOS.

While taking in wood, water and provisions, they were told that three Portuguese caravels were hovering off the island, with the intention to capture Columbus. On September 6, Columbus sailed boldly out to sea, without meeting with any of his enemies.

On losing sight of the last trace of land, the hearts of the crews failed them. They seemed to have taken leave of the world. Behind them was everything dear to them; country, family, friends, life itself; before them was chaos, mystery and peril. Many of the rugged seamen shed tears and broke out into loud wailings. Columbus tried in every way to soothe their distress, and to inspire them with his own glorious fancies. He promised them land and riches, and everything that could arouse them. And he did not do this to deceive them; he believed that he should realize all his promises.

For many days the diary is little more than a log-book, giving the rate of sailing—or rather two rates, one for Columbus' own private need, and the other for the sailors. On September 13, he noticed about nightfall that the needle, instead of pointing to the north star, varied a trifle to the north-west, and still more on the following morning. He watched this attentively for three days, and found that the variation increased as he advanced.

He said nothing, but it also attracted the attention of the pilots, and filled them with dread. They thought that the compass was about to lose its virtue, and without this guide, what was to become of them in a vast and trackless ocean?

It taxed all of Columbus's science and ingenuity for reasons with which to allay their terror. The high opinion that they had of him as an astronomer led them to accept his theories. On the 14th, the sailors of the *Nina* saw two tropical birds, which they said never went beyond sixty miles from shore. On the 15th, they saw a meteor fall from heaven, which made them very sad. These meteors, common in warm climates, and especially under the tropics, are always seen in the clear, azure sky of these latitudes, falling as it were from the heavens, but never beneath a cloud. On the 16th, they first came across large plains of seaweed. On one of these patches was a live crab, which Columbus carefully preserved. Tunny fish also played about the ships.

The wind had to this time been favorable. They had made great progress each day, though Columbus, according to his secret plan, managed to suppress several miles in the daily score left open to the crew. On September 18th, they see many birds, and a cloud in the distance; and that night they expect to see land. On the 19th, in the

morning, comes a pelican (a bird not usually seen fifty miles from the coast); in the evening, another, also a drizzling rain without wind, a certain sign of closeness to land.

Columbus will not beat around for land, as he rightly thinks these signs give token only of islands, as it proved to be. He will see these on his return; but now he must press on to the Indies. This resolve shows his strength of mind, and also the almost scientific basis on which his great idea reposed.

Columbus would not allow himself to be moved from his main design by any partial success, though by this time he well knew the fears of his men, some of whom had already agreed, "that it would be their best plan to throw him quietly into the sea, and say he fell in, while he stood absorbed in looking at the stars." Indeed, three days after he had resolved to pass on to the Indies, we find him saying: "Very needful for me was this contrary wind, for the crews were very much tormented with the idea that there were no winds on these seas that would carry them back to Spain."

On they go, having signs from time to time, in the presence of birds and grass, and fish, that land must be near; but land does not come. Once they are all satisfied that they see land;

ON THE VAST AND TRACKLESS OCEAN.

and they sing the "*Gloria in Excelsis*"; and even Columbus goes out of his course towards this land, which turns out to be no land.

On October 1, they had sailed by the ship's record 1,740 miles, while the real reckoning kept by Columbus showed 2,121 miles. On the next day the weeds floated from east to west, and on the third day no birds were to be seen. The crew began to fear that they had passed between islands, from one to the other of which the birds had been flying; Columbus had some doubts of the same kind, but refused to alter his westward course. The crews began to utter murmurs and threats, but on the day following, they were visited by such flights of birds, and the various signs of land became so many that from a state of despondency they passed into one of eager expectation.

A pension of thirty crowns had been promised by Spain to him who should first discover land. Eager to earn this reward, they were giving out the cry of land on the least appearance of the kind. To put a stop to these false alarms, Columbus declared that should anyone give notice of land, and it be not found for three days afterwards, he should forfeit all claim to the reward.

On October 6 Martin Pinzon began to lose confidence in their present course, and wanted

Columbus to steer more to the southward, but he refused, and continued towards the west. On the 7th land was thought to be seen in the west, but no one ventured to proclaim it for fear of losing the reward. The *Nina* being a good sailor, pressed forward to ascertain the fact. In a little while a flag was hoisted at her masthead, and a gun fired, being the arranged signals for land. New joy was awakened, and every eye was turned towards the west. As they sailed on, their cloud-built hopes faded away; and before evening the fancied land had again melted into air.

The crews were again sadly dejected. Columbus observed great flights of small field birds going towards the southwest, and he made up his mind that they must be secure of some near land, where they would find food and a resting place. He determined to alter his course and sail with the birds, and go in that direction for at least two days. This met the wishes of the Pinzons, and inspired the crews generally.

For three days they sailed in this direction, and the farther they went the more encouraging were the signs of land; but when on the evening of the third day, they beheld the sun go down upon a shoreless horizon, they looked on all these signs as so many delusions luring them on to destruc-

tion. They insisted upon turning homeward, and giving up the voyage as hopeless. Columbus tried to pacify them with gentle words and promises of large rewards; and when these seemed useless, he took a decided tone, and saying they were sent to seek the Indies, happen what might, he would go on, till by the blessing of God he should accomplish the enterprise.

Columbus was now in open war with his crews, and his situation was truly desperate. Happily, on the next day, the signs of land were such as to admit of no doubt. Besides fresh weeds, such as grow in rivers, they saw a green fish, of a kind which keeps about rocks; then a branch of thorn with berries on it; then they picked up a weed, a small board, and above all, a staff artificially carved. All gloom now gave way; and all day each one was eagerly on the watch, in hopes of being the first to discover the long sought for land.

In the evening after the vesper hymn to the Virgin, Columbus made an address to the crew. He thought it likely they should land that night, and ordered a sharp look out. Not an eye was closed that night. About ten o'clock Columbus thought he saw a light glimmering at a great distance. He called the attention of two of his officers to it. The light came and went, as though in the hand of some person on shore. Columbus

looked on this as a certain sign of land, and believed the land was inhabited.

They continued on their course till two o'clock in the morning, when a gun from the *Pinta* gave the joyful signal of land. The land was now dimly seen about six miles off. They took in sail, and waited impatiently for the dawn.

Land was first seen by Rodrigo de Triana. We cannot but be sorry for this poor common sailor, who got no reward, and of whom they tell a story, that in sadness and despite, he passed into Africa, after his return to Spain, and became a Mohometan. The pension was judged to go to Columbus, on the ground that he first saw the light; and was paid to him on the day of his death.

The great mystery of the ocean was now at at last revealed. His theory, which had been the scoff even of sages, was now established. He had secured to himself a glory which must be as durable as the world itself.

CHAPTER VI.

THE NEW WORLD FOUND.

The landing of Columbus in the New World must ever be a conspicuous fact in the records of mankind, and it was celebrated in a manner worthy of the occasion. On Friday, October 12, 1492, Columbus, clad in a full suit of armor, and carrying in his hand the royal banner of Spain, descended upon the level shores of the small island (San Salvador, one of the Bahamas), which had first greeted him, and which he found to be very fruitful, fresh and verdant, and "like a garden full of roses." Martin Pinzon and his brother Vincent went with him, each of them bearing a banner with a green cross upon it, and with the letters F. and Y. surmounted by their respective crowns, the initials of the Spanish monarchs Fernando and Ysabel. These chief officers were followed by a large portion of the crews. In lines along the shore stood the simple natives, all perfectly naked, looking on with innocent amazement.

On touching land, Columbus and all the Spaniards who were present fell upon their knees, and

THE NEW WORLD FOUND.

with tears poured forth their "immense thanksgivings to Almighty God." Drawing his sword, and displaying the royal standard, Columbus took solemn possession in the name of the sovereigns, giving the island the name of San Salvador. After going through these forms and ceremonies, he called on all present to take the oath of obedience to him, as admiral and viceroy.

When the natives saw the boats coming to the shore with a number of strange beings, clad in shining steel with clothes of various colors, they fled off in fright to the woods. Finding that there was no attempt made to pursue or molest them they got over their terror and slowly came back. They came up to the strangers, wondering at their whiteness and at their beards. Columbus attracted their attention, from his height, his air of authority, his dress of scarlet, and the respect paid to him by the others, all of which pointed him out as the chief.

The natives were no less objects of curiosity to the Spaniards, differing as they did from any race of men they had ever seen. Their looks did not give much promise of either riches or learning, for they were entirely naked, and painted with a variety of colors.

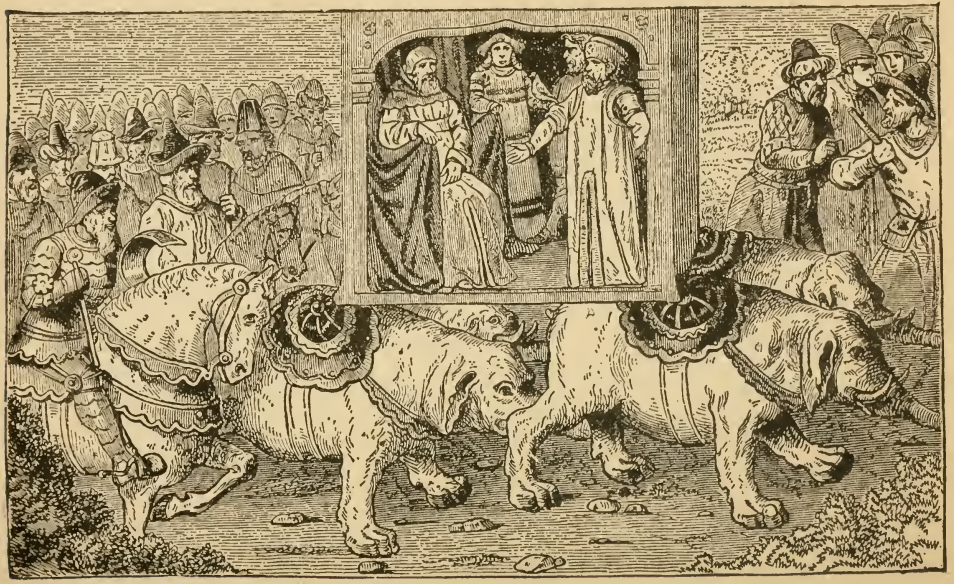
"I gave them," says Columbus, "some colored caps, and some strings of glass beads for their

FRIENDLY EXCHANGES.

necks and many other things of little value, with which they were delighted. They came swimming out to our boats, and brought us parrots, cotton thread in balls, darts, and many other things, and bartered them with us for bells and small glass beads. In fine, they took and gave all of whatever they had with good will." These trifles Columbus brought with him, because the Portuguese sailors found them useful in trading with the negroes on the gold coast of Africa.

As Columbus supposed he had landed on an island at the end of India, he gave to the natives the name of *Indians*, and this name was adopted, and has ever since been applied to the natives of the New World.

Columbus tells us that these Indians were well made, with very good faces, had hair like horsehair, and were yellow in color. They did not carry any arms, and knew nothing of such things, for when he showed them swords, they took hold of them by the blades, and cut themselves. Some of these Indians wore gold rings in their noses. These they gladly exchanged for the hawks' bells. Columbus asked where this gold was to be got. They answered by signs, pointing to the south; and he understood them that in that quarter there was a king of great wealth, insomuch that he was served in great vessels of wrought gold.



THE GRAND KHAN OF THE EAST. (*From Marco Polo's Travels.*)

Columbus now felt satisfied that he had landed among those islands described by Marco Polo, as lying opposite Cathay, in the Chinese Sea, and he thought everything accorded with the account given of those rich regions of the great Khan of the East.

On October 14, he set off at daybreak with the boats of the ships to cruise along the islands. They passed two or three villages, and the men and women ran to the shores, and threw themselves upon the ground, lifting up their hands and eyes, either giving thanks to Heaven, or worshipping the Spaniards. Their idea was that these white men had come from the skies.

On October 16, Columbus went on shore, giving the island the name of Santa Maria Concepcion. Finding nothing here to induce delay, he returned on board, and sailed to the west, landing at another island which he called Fernandina, in honor of the King. The natives here seemed more intelligent. Some of the women wore scanty aprons of cotton, others had cotton mantles, but for the most part they were naked. For beds they had nets of cotton, spread from two posts, which they called hamacs, a name since used by seamen. Here they found a noble harbor, large enough to hold one hundred ships. Here the men landed with the casks in search of water. Columbus says

in his diary, "The country was as fresh and green as the month of May in Andalusia; the trees, fruits, flowers, herbs, the very stones, for the most part, as different from those of Spain, as night from day." The natives looked on their visitors with awe; took them to the coolest springs, filled their casks, rolled them to the boats, and in every way tried to gratify them.

Leaving Fernandina on the 19th, they steered to the south-west, where their guides told them was a gold mine, with a king living in a large city, with great riches, wearing clothes studded with jewels and gold. They found the island, but not the king, nor the mine. No animals had been seen on these islands but lizards and a kind of rabbit, called guanas, and a species of dog that never barked.

To the constant inquiry of Columbus as to where the natives got their gold, they always pointed to the south. It was learned that an island lay in that direction called Cuba, that was rich in gold and jewels and spices, and did quite a trade with ships that stopped there. Columbus now made up his mind to leave the Bahamas and go in quest of Cuba.

Owing to contrary winds and calms, followed by heavy showers, it was October 28 before he sighted the island of Cuba. He was struck with

the grandeur of its features; its high and airy mountains reminding him of those of Sicily; its fertile valleys and wide plains, watered by noble rivers. In the diary Columbus says, "One could live here forever; it is the most beautiful island that eyes ever beheld." The houses were better built than those he had yet seen, and they were kept clean. But the natives fled to the mountains or hid in the woods on his approach. In the course of their searches, they met with the potato, a humble root, little valued at the time, but more precious to man than all the spices of the east. They also beheld the natives going around with firebrands in their hands, and certain dried herbs, which they rolled up in a leaf, and lighting one end, put the other end in their mouths, inhaling and puffing out smoke. These rolls they called tobacco. This discovery of tobacco proved of more value to the Spanish crown than all the gold mines of the Indies.

On November 12, Columbus turned his course, to follow back the direction of the coast. Had he proceeded far within the old channel, between Cuba and the Bahamas, he would have discovered his mistake in thinking Cuba a part of Terra Firma; an error in which he continued to the day of his death. He might have stood for the coast of Florida, or have been carried there by the Gulf

CONCEPTION BAY.

Stream ; or he might have struck over to the opposite coast of Yucatan, and realized his greatest hopes, in being the discoverer of Mexico. It was glory enough, however, for Columbus to have found a new world. Its more golden regions were reserved to give splendor to succeeding enterprises.

Martin Pinzon parted company with Columbus while on the coast of Cuba. He grew tired of taking orders from Columbus. His avarice was suddenly awakened. His vessel being the best sailor, he could easily ply to windward, while the others could not. The Indian guides he had with him offered to bring him to an island of great riches. He might be the first, therefore, to discover this golden region, and enrich himself with its first fruits. Columbus was indignant at this desertion ; but his heavy ship made all attempts at pursuit hopeless.

On December 6, Columbus entered a harbor at the western end of the island, which he called St. Nicholas, by which it is called to this day. From the number of canoes seen in various parts there were evidently large villages near, but the natives fled with terror at the sight of the ships. The interpreter was sent after them. He quieted their terrors by saying that the strangers had come from the skies, and went about the world

making beautiful presents. Thus assured, they ventured back, about 2,000 of them. They were a well formed race, fairer and handsomer than the natives of the other islands. They brought the Spaniards to their houses and set before them casava bread, fish, roots, and fruits of many kinds. They offered freely what they possessed. But there were no signs of riches.

On December 14, Columbus visited an island lying opposite to the harbor of Conception, to which, from its abounding in turtle, he gave the name of Tortugas. On the 16th he steered again for Hispaniola, called by the natives Hayti. The ships were visited by a Cacique of the neighborhood. He was borne on a litter by four men, and attended by 200 of his subjects. Columbus entertained him at dinner on board his vessel. After the dinner the Cacique presented Columbus with a belt curiously made, and two pieces of gold. Columbus gave him a piece of cloth, several amber beads, colored shoes, and a flask of orange flower water. They found but little gold in this place. The region of promise still lay further on. One of the old counsellers of the Cacique told Columbus that he would soon arrive at islands rich in the precious ore.

On December 20th, Columbus anchored in a fine bay, to which he gave the name of St. Thomas.

On the 22d, a large canoe, filled with natives, came on a mission from a grand Cacique named Guacanagari who owned all that part of the island. He resided in a town on a river called Punta Santa. It was the largest and best built town they had yet seen.

On December 24th, Columbus set sail from Conception, intending to anchor at the harbor of the Cacique Guacanagari. The wind was very light, and the ship made but little progress. It was the night before Christmas, and Columbus, who had kept watch, retired to take a little rest, not having slept the night before. On account of the great calm he felt secure, and there was no report of rocks or shoals in their course.

No sooner had the vigilant admiral retired, than the steersman gave the helm in charge to one of the ship boys, and went to sleep. The rest of the sailors who had the watch took advantage of the absence of Columbus, and in a little while the whole crew were buried in sleep. While this fancied security reigned over the ship, the currents, which ran swiftly along this coast, carried her quietly, but with force, upon a sand-bank. The heedless boy had not noticed the breakers, but when he felt the rudder strike, he cried for aid. Columbus was the first to take the alarm, and mount the deck. The master of the ship,

THE FIRST SIGNS OF GOLD.

whose duty it was to have been on watch, next made his appearance, followed by others of the crew, half awake, and not aware of their peril. Columbus ordered them to take the boat, and carry out an anchor astern, that they might try to tow the vessel off. They sprang into the boat; but were seized with a panic, and instead of obeying their orders, sailed off to the other caravel.

When the boat arrived at the caravel, they were refused admission, and reproached for their cowardly desertion. The master and several of the crew of the caravel got out their boat, and sailed to the rescue; but were too late to save the ship, which the strong current had set more and more upon the bank; until her keel was firmly bedded in the sand.

Columbus and his crew took refuge on board the caravel. Messengers were sent on shore to inform the Cacique of their disaster. He sent all his people, with all the canoes that could be gathered, and unloaded the vessel. On December 26, the Cacique came on board the *Pinta*, and tried to cheer up Columbus. He gave him houses to shelter the Spaniards, and to receive the effects landed from the wreck.

The Cacique took Columbus to the beautiful groves near his residence. They were attended by over a thousand of the natives, all perfectly

naked. He assured Columbus, by signs, that there was a place not far off where gold abounded in such a degree that it was held in little value.

Columbus showed the Cacique a Moorish bow and a quiver of arrows, and got a man who was skillful in the use of them to show how these weapons were used. The Cacique told him of the Caribs, who often made descents upon his lands and carried off his subjects; and how they also were armed with these bows and arrows. Columbus promised to destroy these Caribs; knowing he had weapons against which there was no defence. In proof of this, he ordered a heavy cannon to be fired. At the sound of this gun the Indians fell to the ground as though they had been struck with a thunderbolt; and when they saw the ball rending and shivering the trees like a stroke of lightning, they were filled with dismay. On being told that the Spaniards would defend them with these weapons, their alarm changed to joy, and they felt that they were under the protection of the sons of heaven.

The Cacique presented Columbus with a mask carved of wood, with the eyes, ears and other parts of gold; he hung plates of the same metal around his neck, and placed a kind of golden coronet upon his head. He also made various gifts to the crew.

The kindness of the Cacique, the gentleness of the people, and the quantities of gold which were daily brought to be exchanged for the commonest trifles did much to console Columbus for the loss he had suffered.

The shipwrecked crew lived on shore. When they looked back upon their toilsome and painful life in Spain, and thought of the cares and hardships that must still be their lot if they returned to Europe, it is no wonder that they looked with a wistful eye on the easy and idle life of these Indians. The men were simple, frank and cordial; the women loving and willing to marry. They saw gold around them to be had without labor, and enjoyment to be got without cost. Many of the seamen begged Columbus to allow them to remain on the island.

Columbus resolved to found a colony in Guacanagari's land, "having found such good will and such signs of gold." With the timber of the unfortunate *Santa Maria* he built a fort, and called it La Natividad, because he entered the port near there on Christmas day. The shipwreck which Columbus looked upon as an act of divine favor, to reveal to him the secrets of the land, limited all his after discoveries. It linked his fortunes for the rest of his life to this island, which was doomed to be to him a scene of cares

THE FORT AT LA NATIVIDAD.

and troubles, to tie him up in a thousand doubts, and to cloud his last years with humiliation and disappointment.

He remained on very friendly terms with this good Cacique, and might have done well in that part of the country if he could have been content to be a settler. But he had an anxious desire to get back to Spain, and tell all he knew. At times he feared that his grand secret might still perish with him. So he resolved to return home. He left the fort in trust to a small body of his followers, whom he commended to the good will of the Cacique. He advised the men to do no violence to man or woman, but to act as if they had really came from heaven. Then getting the necessary provisions for his vessel from the friendly Indians, he set sail for Spain on January 14, 1493.

CHAPTER VII.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

The wind being light, they had to tow the caravel out of the harbor, and clear of the reefs all around it. They then stood eastward, towards a lofty promontory, to which Columbus gave the name of Monte Christo, by which it is still known. On January 6, 1493, the lookout at the masthead cried out that he saw the *Pinta* at a distance. The two vessels steered back to the bay. Pinzon went on board the *Nina* and stated to Columbus that owing to the storms he had been driven out of his course, and out of sight of his leader. The admiral accepted this explanation, fearing that a quarrel with Pinzon, whose townsmen and relations formed the most part of the crew, might cause a mutiny, which would be fatal to the undertaking; but in his diary he noted his belief in Pinzon's bad faith. Pinzon had not found the gold he went in search of, but he had met with some natives and got, by bartering, a large quantity of gold-dust. Half of this he kept for himself, and half he gave to his crew as a bribe to them to say nothing about the matter.

A few days were spent in refitting the vessels for their homeward voyage. The *Nina* and the *Pinta* again set sail, coasting St. Domingo in an easterly direction as far as the Gulf of Samana. It was here that the first fight took place. The natives attacked an exploring party that had been sent out by Columbus. This was smoothed over. Pinzon had brought six Indians on board his ship, intending to carry them to Spain, to be sold as slaves. Columbus set them free, and sent them back with presents.

On January 16, Columbus left Samana on his homeward course, from which, however, he turned, in the hope of finding the island peopled with Amazons, described by Marco Polo, of which he had heard something in St. Domingo.

Such a discovery would be a full proof of his new country with Marco Polo's Indies, and when four natives offered to act as guides, he thought it worth while to steer (in the direction of Martinique) in quest of the fabled Amazons. But the breeze blew towards Spain; the crews grew homesick; they grumbled at the length of the voyage among the currents and reefs of strange seas; and at last Columbus gave up all idea of further discovery, and again took up his course for Europe.

At first things went well; but the adverse trade-

HARD TIMES AT SEA.

winds, and the bad sailing of the *Pinta* delayed the progress of both vessels. On February 12, a storm came on, which became more and more furious, until on the 14th, it became a hurricane, and Pinzon's vessel could only drift helplessly, while the *Nina* was able to keep ahead. In the evening both caravels were sailing under bare poles, and when darkness fell the signal light of the *Pinta* gleamed far off, until at last it could be seen no more. Then the panic-stricken crew gave up in despair, the winds howled louder and louder, and the sea burst over the frail vessel—then, indeed, without a single skilled sailor to advise or to aid him, Columbus felt himself alone with the tempest and the night. But his brave heart kept up. As the stores were consumed, the *Nina* felt the want of ballast, which Columbus had intended to take on board at the Amazon Island. "Fill the empty casks with water," said he, "and let them serve as ballast," a plan which has grown common enough now, but which then was probably original.

Columbus did all that human skill could suggest for the safety of his vessel; and he prayed to Heaven for help. With his crew he drew lots to choose of one of their number to perform a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Guadaloupe. He, himself, was chosen. Twice more

were lots drawn, and once again the lot fell to Columbus. Then he and all the crew made a vow to go in procession to the first church dedicated to the Virgin which they should meet on reaching land.

When he thought their chances of getting through the storm were small indeed, Columbus, fearing that the tidings of his discovery might finish with him, wrote out an account of his voyage on parchment, and this he tied up in wax and placed in a flask, which he threw out on the waves.

On February 15th, the storm abated some, and at last they came in sight of land, which Columbus knew to be one of the Azores. As they could not make head against the waves and the sea, they lost sight of this island, but saw another, lying more to the south, round which they sailed on the night of the 17th, but lost an anchor in trying to bring up near the land. Next day they cast anchor, and learned from the people that they had reached the island of St. Mary, belonging to the Portuguese. The governor sent word to Columbus that he would visit him. But, to fulfil their vow, half the crew went, barefoot and in their shirts, on the pilgrimage to the chapel of St. Mary, which was not far from the harbor. The governor captured the whole band of pilgrims. Spain and Portugal were at this time at peace.

but the governor thought the capture would please his king. Columbus could do nothing with the governor, and as the weather would not allow him to remain where he was, he put out to sea, with only three able seamen. On February 21, he came back, and showed his royal commission, and the governor restored the crew. On the 24th, they again steered for Spain, but another tempest came on, which lasted for more than a week.

In this last storm which raged with destructive violence along the west coast of the Continent of Europe, and which drove the *Pinta* almost helplessly towards a lee shore, the dangers of the voyage ended. "I escaped," says Columbus, "by the greatest miracle in the world." On the afternoon of March 4th, he came to anchor in the Tagus. To the King of Portugal, who happened to be near, he sent word of his arrival, and the result of his voyage, and in reply, he received a pressing call to visit the Court. With this he thought proper to comply, "in order not to show mistrust, although he disliked it," and was received by the King with great honors. The King put in a claim to the newly found land, which Columbus in the interest of his sovereign took care to repudiate as decidedly as possible. The King offered to transport Columbus by land, and to furnish a safe con-

PRAYING FOR THE SEA TO SUBSIDE.

duct or band of troops. This Columbus refused. On March 13th, in the teeth of a bad wind and a heavy sea, he left Tagus for the Bar of Saltes, and safely reached his starting point at Palos on the 15th, again a Friday—having taken not quite seven months and a-half to accomplish this greatest of all maritime enterprises.

CHAPTER VIII.

RECEPTION OF COLUMBUS AT PALOS.

The triumphant return of Columbus was a great event in the history of the little port of Palos, where everybody was more or less interested in the fate of the expedition. The most important and wealthy sea-captains of the place had engaged in it, and scarcely a family but had some relative or friend among the voyagers. The departure of the ships on what was thought a crazy cruise had spread gloom and dismay over the place; and the storms which had raged made this feeling worse. When they heard of the return, the whole people burst forth into a transport of joy. The bells were rung, and all the shops were closed; and everywhere was bustle and excitement. Every member of the crew was looked upon as a hero.

The Court was at Barcelona. Columbus sent a letter to the King and Queen, stating in general terms the success of his project; and made ready to present himself in person to their highnesses. Almost at the same time, the *Pinta* reached the

port of Bayonne, and Pinzon sent a letter telling of "his" discoveries, and offering to come to Court and give full intelligence of them. He supposed that Columbus had been lost; and when the King and Queen directed him not to come to Court without the admiral, chagrin and grief so overcame him that he took to his bed; and if any man ever died of remorse and a broken heart, that man was Martin Alonzo Pinzon.

The Court prepared a great reception for Columbus at Barcelona, where the people turned out in such numbers to see him that the streets could not contain them. A procession like this the world had never before seen. Here with Columbus were beings of a New World. Ferdinand and Isabella had their thrones placed in the presence of the assembled Court. Columbus approached the monarchs, and then, "his face beaming with modest satisfaction," he knelt at the King's feet, and begged leave to kiss their highnesses' hands. They gave their hands; then bade him rise and be seated before them. He told the events of his voyage, and concluded his story by showing what new things and new creatures he had brought with him.

Ferdinand and Isabella fell on their knees, and gave thanks to God with many tears; and then the singers of the royal chapel closed the grand

THE RECEPTION OF COLUMBUS.

ceremony by singing the "Te Deum." Afterwards men walked home grave and yet happy, having seen the symbol of a great work, something to be thought over for many a generation.

A coat of arms, then a thing of much significance, was granted to him. In the shield are the Royal Arms of Castile and Leon. Nothing can better show the great favor which Columbus had obtained at Court by his discovery than such a grant. The title of Don was given to him and his descendants, and also to his brothers. "All Hail!" was said to him on state occasions.

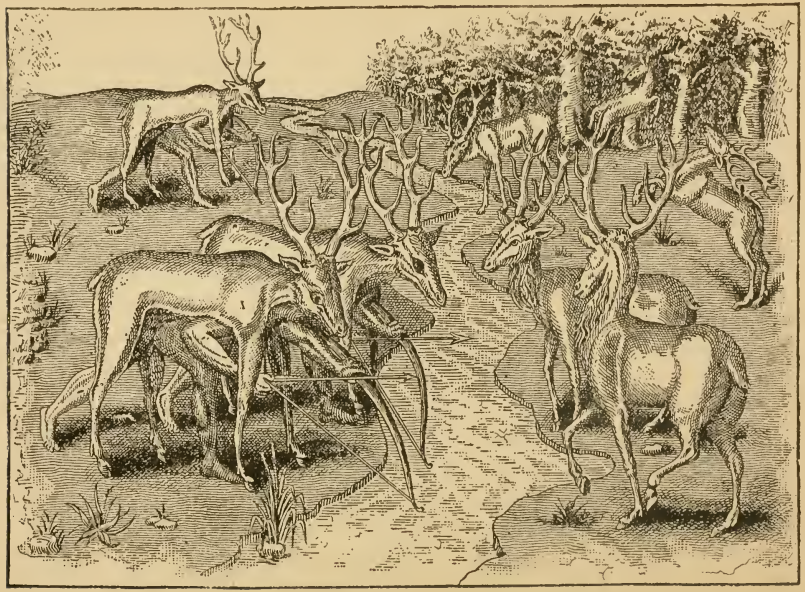
The Sovereigns now applied to the Pope, to confer on the crowns of Castile and Leon the lands discovered and to be discovered in the Indies. To this application they received a favorable answer. The Pope gave them "high and royal jurisdiction, and imperial dignity and lordship over all that hemisphere." To preserve the peace between Spain and Portugal, the Pope divided the Spanish and Portuguese sovereignties by an imaginary line drawn from pole to pole, three hundred miles west of the Azores and the Cape Verde Islands.

Preparations were now made for a second voyage to be undertaken by Columbus. A special department for the control of colonial affairs was placed under the charge of Juan Fonseca, an

THE RETURN TO SPAIN.

archdeacon of Seville, who afterwards rose to be a bishop, and finally was made patriarch of the Indies. Unfortunately for the poor savages whose fate he was now to influence so largely, Fonseca was a man who had but little of the mildness and forbearing spirit of Christianity. He was a shrewd business man, a hard taskmaster, and a sore enemy. In his dealings with the Indians he was a tyrant, and made them suffer more miseries than had ever before been brought upon a subject race.

Jealous of the rivalry of Portugal, the Sovereigns took every means to hasten the preparations for the second voyage. Twelve caravels and five smaller vessels were made ready, and were laden with horses and other animals, and with plants, seeds and machines for the cultivation of the new countries. Men of various trades were engaged, and a quantity of goods and gaudy trifles, fit for trading with the natives, were taken on board. There was no need to press men into the service now; volunteers were too plenty. Columbus felt satisfied that he had been on the outskirts of Cathay, and that the land of gold was not far off. Not one of the 1500 persons who took ship in this squadron but believed that he would reap a fortune as the reward of the voyage. Twelve missionaries went along to convert and teach the faith to the Indians.



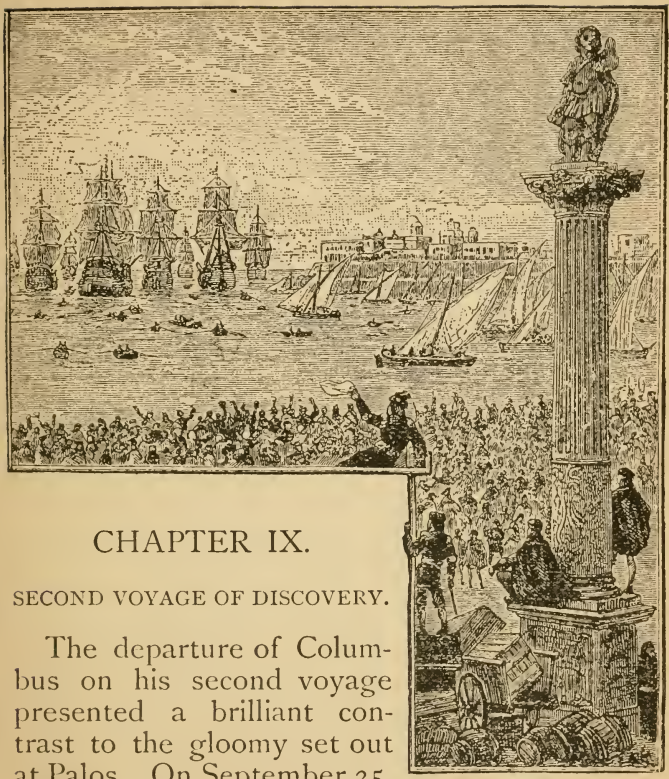
INDIAN WAY OF LURING GAME.

The instructions to Columbus, dated May 29, 1493, "bid him to labor in all possible ways to bring the dwellers of the Indies to a knowledge of the Holy Catholic Faith."

Among the noted men engaged in the second voyage was a young cavalier, named Don Alonzo Ojeda, known for his daring spirit; and who made himself famous for many perilous expeditions and singular exploits among the early discoverers. He was of good family, and had served in the wars against the Moors. He was of small size, but well made, handsome, and of great strength and agility, and expert with all kinds of weapons; a fine horseman, bold of heart, free of spirit, open of hand, fierce in fight, quick in brawl but ready to forgive and forget an injury. Las Casas makes him the hero of many wonderful tales.

After receiving every mark of public honor and private regard, Columbus took leave of the Sovereigns on May 28, 1493. The whole Court followed him from the palace to his dwelling and attended also to pay him farewell honors on his departure from Barcelona to Seville.

Difficulties between Spain and Portugal took some time in settlement, and it was not till September 25 that Columbus started off on his second voyage of discovery.



CHAPTER IX.

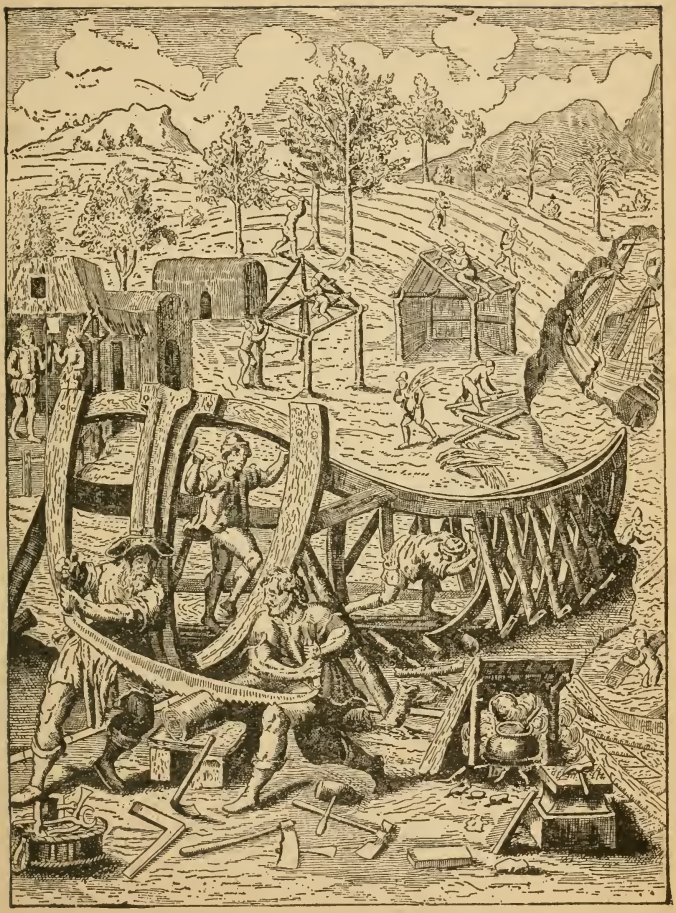
SECOND VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

The departure of Columbus on his second voyage presented a brilliant contrast to the gloomy set out at Palos. On September 25, 1493, at the dawn of day, the bay of Cadiz was whitened by his fleet. The squadron left Cadiz for the Canary Islands, and, after taking in provisions there, sailed from Ferro, on October 13. The voyage was a good one. There was but one

storm, and that lasted only a few hours, and good breezes wafted them over calm seas so quickly that the ships sighted land on November 3, having made the voyage "by the goodness of God, and the wise skill of the admiral in as straight a track as if they had sailed by a well known and much gone over route." It was Sunday, and the name of Dominica was given to the first island to which they came.

From Dominica, where no natives where found, Columbus sailed northward, calling one small island Maria Galante, after his own flagship, and calling a second and much larger one Guadaloupe, after a noted monastery in Spain. This island was peopled by a race of cannibals, and in their houses, human flesh was found roasting at the fire. A party was sent into the interior, but so thickly was it wooded, that they lost their way in the jungle, and only got back to the ships after four days' wanderings, and when they had been given up by their companions, who feared they had become food for the savages. The men seemed to have been absent on a warlike raid, as the white men met only women and children, and several of these they brought along with them.

Anxious to revisit the colony at Natividad (Nativity) Columbus sailed along as quickly as he could, and after passing and naming Montser-



BUILDING SHIPS AND HOUSES.

rat, Antigua, and Santa Cruz, reached a fertile island which he called St. John, but which is now known as Porto Rico. Here he found houses and roads; and proofs that the natives were cannibals were everywhere to be seen. On November 22, they reached Natividad. The little colony had been entirely destroyed. The fort was razed to the ground; and not one was alive to tell the tale. It appeared they had taken to evil courses, fought among themselves, and finally were set upon when weak and few by an Indian chief named Caonabo, who burned the fort, and killed the garrison. It was in Caonabo's country that the gold mines were said to exist, and it is likely that the Spaniards had tried to reach and get at them. Guacanagari, the friendly Cacique, had done what he could to help them. He appeared to be not so friendly as he had been at first. He was willing to help build another fort, but Columbus thought it better to seek a new locality. The settlers had so offended the Indians that instead of thinking they came from heaven, as they did at first, they looked on them as bad men, against whom they had to defend their honor and their lives.

Sailing along the coast of Hayti, Columbus fixed on a site for a new settlement about 40 miles to the east of the present Cape Haytien. This he

CARIB GIRLS SWIMMING FROM THE SHIPS.

called Isabella. Here the ships discharged their stores and the men built the first town in the New World. Diseases broke out. There were more men here than means to keep them. Food and medicines gave out. And, worst of all, none of the golden dreams were realized, under the influence of which they had left Spain. Anxiety, care, and labor began to tell on Columbus, and for some time he was stretched upon a bed of sickness.

The women who were on board the ships cleared off one night by dropping over the side of the vessels. Though the ships were anchored three miles from shore, these Indian women swam away as though the waves were their natural element. They were chased in boats, but managed to get to the beach. Four were taken and brought back. Others got away. In the morning Guacanagari was not to be found. He had moved into the woods during the night.

It was necessary to send most of the ships back to Spain. Columbus explained that they were not able to send any gold. The destruction of the garrison defeated all his hopes. His people had been ill ; they had to keep guard, etc.

Ojeda now suggested that as Caonabo's land was only a four days' journey that a force of well-armed young men be sent there to see if these

gold mines actually existed. Columbus assented. Ojeda brought back word that there were signs of large natural wealth. Columbus reported this good news to Spain.

Twelve ships were sent back; in them he sent home as slaves the men, women and children taken in the Carribee Islands. Columbus boldly suggested that, for the good of the souls of these cannibal Indians, the more of them that could be taken the better; and that, considering what quantities of live stock and other things would be required for the colony, a certain number of caravels should be sent each year with these necessary things, and the cargoes be paid for in slaves taken from among the cannibals, and that preparations for capturing them could be carried on with more confidence, if the scheme seemed good to their highnesses. The Catholic Sovereigns would have been very glad to have received some money from the Indies; money was always welcome to the King, and the purchase of wine, seeds and cattle was costly; still this advice to establish slavery was wisely set aside. Scant fare and hard work were having their effect, sickness spread over the whole camp, and men of all ranks and stations, from the laborers to the priests and people of the Court, were forced to labor. The rage of the men, many of whom came out with the

notion of finding gold ready for them on the sea-shore, may be imagined; and complaints of the harsh way of dealing with them now took their rise, and pursued Columbus ever after to his ruin.

A mutiny headed by Diaz was formed, with the intention of seizing the ships. Diaz was sent for trial to Spain.

The Spaniards gained very little from these gold mines which they began to work before they had brought around themselves the means of living. The Spanish monarchs made things worse by ordering Columbus to go on and make further discoveries. They were jealous of the Portuguese. The more rapidly each nation could advance and plant its flags, the more of much-coveted India it would be able to claim. Columbus left his brother Diego in charge of the new colony and put out to sea again on April 24, 1494.

In the course of this voyage Columbus made many important discoveries, among them Jamaica and the cluster of little islands called the "Garden of the Queen." Sailing through these islands was so difficult that Columbus is said to have been 32 days without sleep. The cares and privations he had undergone for many months seized upon him and deprived him for a time of his senses. The sailors turned the fleet homewards to Isa-

bella, where they arrived September 29, 1494, having with them their helpless commander.

On Columbus's arrival at Isabella, where he remained ill for five months, he found his brother Bartholomew. This gladdened him very much. Next came food, and all things needful for the colony. But the colony was in a bad state. The Indians were up in arms, and some of the principal persons went back to Spain in the ship which had brought out Bartholomew Columbus. Columbus had given orders to treat the Indians kindly, to buy their food if possible, and to capture Caonabo and his brothers either by force or artifice. The men, however, went straggling over the country. Waste, rapine, injury and insult followed in their steps, and now there was but little hope of the two races living peacefully together. The Indians had "passed from terror to despair," and were swarming around the Spaniards with hostile intent, and but for the timely arrival of Columbus the settlement might again have been swept entirely away.

Caonabo and another Cacique were marching on Isabella. Columbus started out and routed them utterly. He took a large part of them for slaves. On February 24, 1495, he sent back four ships chiefly laden with these slaves. It is said Caonabo brought over 100,000 men to an attack. Colum-

bus and his brother Bartholomew led two bands, attacking the Indians from two quarters. This great host was at once and utterly put to flight. In speaking of such a defeat the reader must bear in mind what it is to expose naked bodies to fire-arms, to a charge of steel-clad men on horseback, and to the clinging ferocity of blood-hounds. A "horrible carnage" ensued upon the flight of the Indians. Those taken alive were made slaves.

Caonabo escaped. Columbus sent Ojeda to cajole him into a friendly meeting, and so capture him. Ojeda brought with him some manacles made of brass or steel, finely wrought, and finely polished. The metals of Spain were as highly prized by the Indians as was their gold by the Spaniards.

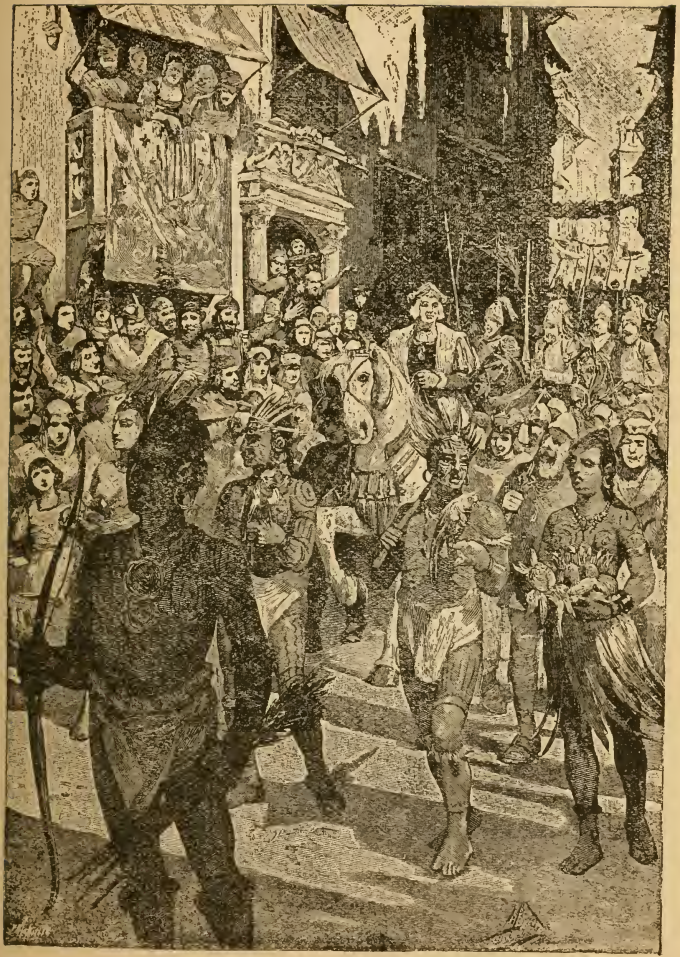
Ojeda brought these ornaments to Caonabo, and told him they were a present from the admiral; that he would show him how to put them on; that then he would set him on his horse, and show him to his subjects, as the Kings of Spain showed themselves to theirs. The poor Indian fell into the trap. The manacles were placed on his hands, he was set on the horse, and Ojeda, jumping up behind him, darted off for Isabella, and brought him bound into the presence of Columbus. The Cacique was sent to Spain to be judged, and his

forces put to flight by a troop of Spaniards. Many were killed; some taken prisoners; and many fled to the woods and mountains.

Columbus now laid a tribute on all the natives. Every Indian above 14 years old was to pay every three months a little bellful of gold; and all other persons were to pay a quantity of cotton for each person. Copper tokens were made, and were given to the Indians when they paid the tribute; and these tokens were to be worn around the neck to show that the tribute had been paid. The Indians did not know how to collect the gold and the tribute had to be changed; and service was taken instead. Indolent in character and incapable of hard work, the Indian regarded this labor as slavery.

Columbus was not a cruel man; we know he was a very pious one; but early in life he had made voyages along the coast of Africa, and he was accustomed to a slave trade. Besides he wanted to reduce the expenses of these Indian possessions and make good his promises that advantage would flow to Spain from the Indies.

Complaints of the harsh dealings of Columbus had reached the King and Queen, and they sent over a man to inquire into the troubles. He found lots of complaint both from the settlers and the Indians. Columbus now concluded that he



would go to Spain and fight his own battles before the Court. His voyage over was a bad one. They had stormy winds until the food began to run short, and rations were doled out in small lots, which grew smaller and smaller until Columbus had all he could do to keep the Spaniards from killing and eating the Caribs who were on board. At last when famine was on them, after a voyage of three months, they landed on June 11, 1496, at Cadiz.

After a month's delay, Columbus got orders to come to Court, which was then at Burgos. In his journey he tried to dazzle the eyes of the people by the display of gold, and by showing his captives as he did on his return from his first voyage; but so many colonists had come back sick at heart, and ruined in health, that this procession was very unlike the first one in the welcome he received.

He was well received by the sovereigns, who listened with sympathy to the story of his difficulties, and heard with much satisfaction his story of the discovery of the mines from which much was hoped for.

CHAPTER X.

CRIMINALS SENT TO THE INDIES.

During the two years that followed from the time Columbus left Hayti in 1496 till his return there in 1498 many things happened on both sides of the Atlantic which require telling. In 1496 Bartholomew Columbus sent 300 slaves to Spain. He told the sovereigns that some Caciques were killing the Spaniards, and their highness had sent reply, that all of those who should be found guilty should be sent to Spain. If this meant the common Indians as well as the Caciques, the question of selling them with a safe conscience was already settled.

In 1497, on the advice of Columbus to the sovereigns, all criminals were to be sent to the Indies. He was greatly ashamed of this advice later, for three years afterwards he says, "I swear that numbers of men have gone to the Indies who did not deserve water from God or man."

There was one part of Hayti into which the Spaniards had not yet entered. It was called Xaragua, and was ruled by a Cacique, whose

sister was the wife of Caonabo. Bartholomew marched here with 100 men ; and found an immense army of Indians drawn up to oppose his progress. Bartholomew made signs to them that his errand was one of peace, and the good-natured Indians brought him to their city, and feasted him and his troop. He then demanded tribute. The Cacique pleaded that there was no gold in his land ; so it was settled that they should pay tribute in cotton, and cazabi-bread.

On Bartholomew's return he found that nearly 300 men had died of disease ; and there was great lack of food. He placed the sick in the fortresses and in the Indian villages, and set out to St. Domingo, collecting tribute by the way. In all these proceedings, and still more from causes over which he had no control, the Spaniards suffered much. They grumbled loudly at the labors that were forced upon them ; and the Indians still more justly of the tribute placed on them. The Indians got together and rose as one man to get rid of the Spaniards, but, of course, they could do but little. The chief movers in this revolt were put to death.

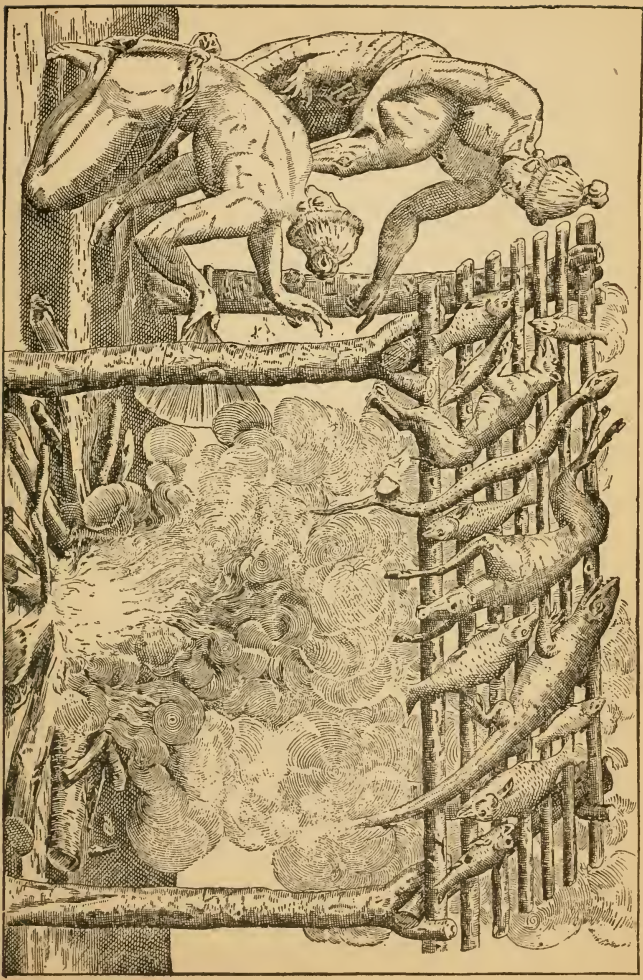
Roldan, a man who was under great obligations to Columbus for having raised him from poverty and obscurity, and whom he made justice of the peace before his departure, caused great trouble

CARIBS.

during the absence of the admiral. The brothers of Columbus were very unpopular, and Roldan tried to ruin them both, and work his way to the command of the colony. Finding the people full of murmurs about hard treatment, severe toil, and the long absence of Columbus, he made believe to be moved by their distresses. He formed a plan with some others to get rid of Diego and Bartholomew, promising his followers a life of ease and pleasure; sharing equally all they might gain by barter in the island, employing the Indians to work as slaves for them, and enjoying themselves with the Indian women.

Diego got word of what was going on but did not dare risk an open fight. He sent Roldan to the Vega with forty men. Roldan's idea was to surprise the fort at Conception, and by getting hold of that post and the rich country around it, to defy Diego and his brother.

The fortress was small; but was in charge of a staunch and brave old soldier, and Roldan was unable to take it. The natives were flocking round Roldan's banner. Bartholomew marched to put down these rebels; but knowing that his men had listened to the wily offers of Roldan, he was not sure of their loyalty. Such was the state of affairs when Coronal with three ships bringing supplies and troops landed at St. Domingo.



CARIB COOKING.

Coronal tried to win back this bold bad man, but Roldan was afraid of Bartholomew Columbus and would not venture on a return. He set out for Xaragua. He had meetings with the Caciques and it was decided to attack and kill all the soldiers, who were spread in small parties around the village. The night of the full moon was fixed upon for the attack.

One of the Caciques, who knew nothing of the heavenly bodies, took up arms before the agreed upon time and was beaten by the soldiers. The alarm was thus given, and the Spaniards were on the alert. The villages were burned, and the Indians scattered. Some fled to the mountains, where they were soon brought to terms.

Roldan got away; and now the poor natives were sorely harassed between the rebels and the loyal Spaniards.

CHAPTER XI.

THIRD VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.

Columbus set sail from the port of San Lucar on May 30, 1498, with 6 vessels and 200 men, besides the sailors. France and Spain were now at war, and Columbus in this voyage was obliged to avoid the French ships that were sailing in those seas. From the Canary Islands he sent three of the ships direct to Hayti, saying in his letters that he was going to the Cape Verde Islands, and thence, "in the name of the Sacred Trinity," would sail southwards, until he should come under the equinoctial line, in the hope of being "guided by God to discover something which may be to His service; for I believe," he adds, "that no one ever has traversed this way, and that this sea is nearly unknown."

With one ship and two caravels, he reached the Cape Verde Islands on June 27, and quitted them on July 4, having been in the midst of such a dense fog, that, as he says, "it might have been cut with a knife." Then he sailed south-west. When he had gone about 360 miles he found

fields of floating sea-weed. The wind now stopped, and the heat was awful; so great, that nobody dared go below. This heat lasted eight days. The first day was clear, and if the others had been like it, Columbus says, not a man could have been left alive; they would all have been burned up.

At last a breeze sprang up and they sailed off in a westerly course. On July 22, flocks of birds were seen going from the south-west to the north-east, a sign that land was not far off. Still they saw no land; and were much in need of fresh water. On July 31, Alonzo Perez went aloft on the maintop-sail of the ship and saw land, about 50 miles off. This land was described as in the form of three lofty hills, which Columbus named Trinidad.

The sailors sang the "Salve Regina," and other pious hymns with joy. As he neared these shores Columbus noticed that the trees grew well on the margin of the seas. There were houses and people; and the lands were cultivated. This was August 1, 1498. From the point where he now was the lands of the Orinoco must have been visible, and he must have beheld the continent of America for the first time. (The northern part of this continent had been discovered by Sebastian Cabot on June 24, 1497.)

Before entering the gulf Columbus sought to

PEARL FISHERS.

make friends with some Indians who came out in a large canoe, by ordering the men to come on deck, and dance to the sound of a tambourine; but this, naturally enough, was thought to be a warlike move, and it was answered by a flight of arrows from the Indians. At last he arrived at a place called by the natives Paria. They told him the country to the west was full of people. He took four of these natives, and went on till he came to a point, which he named Needle Point, where, he says, he found "the most beautiful lands, and a great number of canoes came off to the ships."

Going on, Columbus came to a place where the women had pearl bracelets. Asking where these came from they pointed to Paria. Here he sent some of his men on shore, and they were very well received. But he was anxious to get to Hayti, to see after his colonists there, and bring them the stores which he had in charge.

The discovery of the continent of America by Columbus on this third voyage was the result of his intention to discover some new land, and cannot be attributed to chance. His theory was that the earth was not a perfect sphere, but pear-shaped; and he thought that, as he sailed westward in this voyage, the sea went gradually rising, and his ships rising too, until they came nearer to the heavens.

It is very likely that this theory had been long in his mind, and that he held it before he reached the coast of Paria. He found the temperature much more moderate than might have been expected so near the equinoctial line, far more moderate than it was on the opposite coast of Africa. In the evenings it was necessary for him to wear an outer garment of fur. Then the natives were lighter in color, more astute and braver than those of the islands. Their hair, too, was different.

Then he thought of the great volume of fresh waters that came down into the Gulf of Paria. The conclusion that his pious mind came to was that he had reached the base of the earthly paradise. He thought that the continent which he had found was the same continent of the east that he had always been in search of; and that the waters which we now know to be a branch of the river Orinoco, formed one of the four great rivers which came from the garden of Paradise.

Very different were the views of the pilots. Some said they were in the Sea of Spain; others, the Sea of Scotland; and being in despair about their whereabouts, they concluded that they had been under the guidance of the devil. Columbus stuck to it that he had discovered the site of the earthly paradise. He told his men that they were in the richest country in the world.

Columbus did not forget to claim, with all due form, the possession of his approach to paradise, for his employers, the Catholic Sovereigns. When he landed at Paria he took possession of the coast in their names, putting up a great cross upon the shore. In telling this to the monarchs he reminds them how they bade him to go on with the enterprise, if he should discover only stones and rocks, and had told him they counted the cost for nothing, so long as the faith would be increased and their dominions widened.

It was, however, no poor finding of "rocks and stones" which Columbus had now made. He says, "I found some lands, the most beautiful in the world, and very populous." Of the people he said, "They are all of good stature, well made, and of very graceful bearing, with much and smooth hair."

It is curious that Columbus does not mention his discovery of pearls to the monarchs, and he afterwards made a poor excuse for this. The real reason is supposed to have been a wish to keep this knowledge to himself, that the fruits of this journey might not be snatched from him. The gains to be made on the pearl coast were, probably, the most tempting bait for future captains to follow in the track of Columbus and complete the discovery of the earthly paradise.

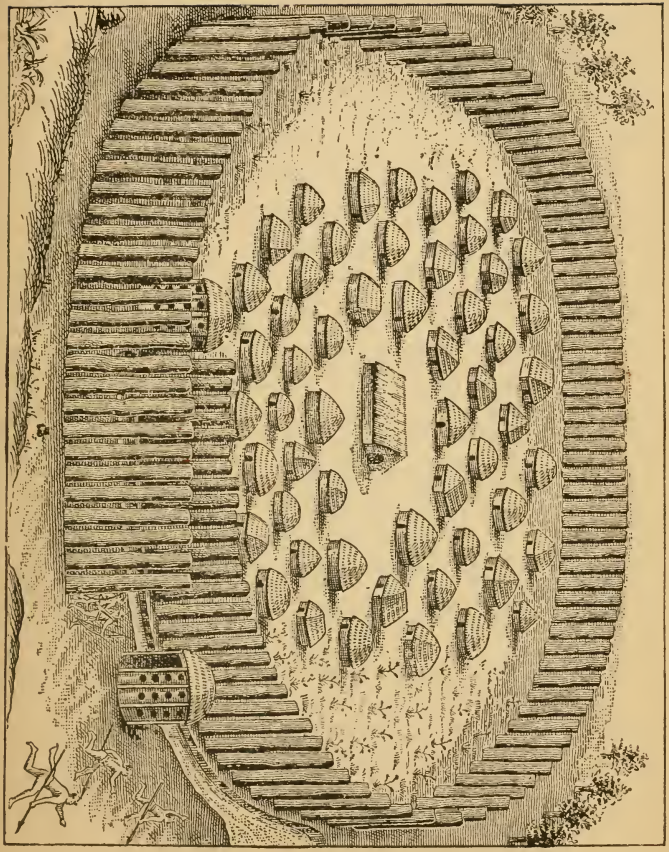
Of the delights of this paradise Columbus himself was to have but a slight and mocking foretaste. He was sick during the whole voyage, suffering from gout and from sore eyes which made him almost blind. His new colony in Hayti claimed his attention and was the cause of anxious thought to him; and the grave but glowing advocate made his way to St. Domingo, and afterwards returned to Spain, to be vexed henceforth by those mean miseries and small disputes which followed him to the end of his days—miseries the more galling as they were so small compared with the greatness of the man, and with the aims and hopes which they effectually hindered.

CHAPTER XII.

COLUMBUS IN CHAINS.

On August 30, 1498, Columbus reached Hayti, where he found everything in confusion. He thought at first that the bad will of Roldan and his party was chiefly directed against his brother, and he hoped to patch up a peace, and be able to send this word back to Spain. But it was not so to be. The five vessels left St, Domingo, bearing no good news of peace and amity, but laden with many hundreds of Indian slaves, which had been taken in the following manner: Some Cacique failed to perform the personal services put upon him and his people, and fled to the forests. They were pursued, and the captured put as slaves in these ships. Columbus in his letters to the sovereigns speaks of the money to be made out of these slave dealings, and from the sale of log-wood. 600 slaves were sent in these five ships, of which 200 were to go to the masters of the vessels as payment of freight.

In these letters Columbus spoke after the fash-



AN INDIAN VILLAGE.

ion of the regular slave dealer. "The masters of the vessels were to receive slaves from the colonists, were to carry them to Spain and pay for feeding them during the voyage; they were then to allow the colonists so much money, payable at Seville. This money was to be spent as the colonists directed, who would thus be able to obtain such goods as they needed." He always urged upon the sovereigns that the colonists should be allowed to make use of the services of the Indians for a year or two, until the colony should be in a settled state. He did not wait for the royal authority, and this led to a new form of farming out the natives.

After great trouble the disputes between Roldan's rebels and Columbus were after two years' bargaining brought to an end. Roldan kept his place as justice; and his friends received lands and slaves; and Columbus ordered that the Cacique and his people should till these lands. Fifteen of Roldan's party chose to return to Spain; they received two or three slaves each, and they were sent home, in October, 1499.

On their arrival in Spain the Queen was greatly angered, and said Columbus had no right to give her vassals to anyone. She ordered that all persons in Seville, Granada, and other places who had Indians given to them should, under pain of

SENT HOME IN CHAINS.

death, send them back to Hayti. Only the Indians taken in war could be made slaves.

Everybody would be sorry to take away any honor from Isabella; but it would have been better if she had forbid the sending of the Indians as slaves, on any pretext whatever.

Columbus had now settled the Roldan revolt, and other smaller ones; he had reduced the Indians to subjection, the mines were prospering, the Indians were brought together in the villages, so that they might better be taught the Christian faith, and serve as vassals to the Crown, and the royal revenues would, he thought, in three years, amount to $7,500,000.

He had hardly enjoyed a month of rest, when that evil came down upon him which "poured the juice of aloes into the rest of his life."

The Sovereigns up to this time had behaved well to Columbus. He had bitter enemies at Court; and they were for ever saying he was doing wrong. When the five vessels from St. Domingo reached Spain with the news of Roldan's revolt, and the other troubles, they resolved to end this clamor and to suspend Columbus.

In July, 1500, they sent over Bobadilla with orders that the government and all arms and fortresses should be turned over to him. He reached Hayti on August 23, 1500. It was a

great pity and a sad mistake of judgment that this man was fixed upon as agent. He was a man of very narrow mind. The first thing he did was to take possession of the admiral's house, and then summon him before him, sending him the royal letter. Neither Columbus nor his brothers made any resistance, and Bobadilla, with stupid brutality, put them in chains and sent them home to Spain.

Charges came thickly against Columbus; "the stones rose up against him and his brothers." The people told how he had made them work, even sick men, at his fortresses, at his house, at the mills and other buildings, how he had starved them, condemned them to be whipped for slight causes. Then they went on to other grounds, such as his not having baptized Indians "because he desired slaves rather than Christians," that he had unjustly made war on the Indians so that he could make slaves to send to Spain.

Poor Columbus! His chains lay very heavily upon him. He would not have them taken off except by royal command, and would ever keep them by him ("I always saw them in his room," says his son Ferdinand), ordering that they should be buried with him.

We have now come to the end of Columbus's tale in the Indies. Whatever we may think of his

general policy, we cannot but regret his removal at this time, when there seemed to be some chance of making a solid government, though we must honestly admit that the Sovereigns, with such

JEERED AT IN THE STREETS.

evidence as they had before them, were far from wrong in recalling him, had it been done in a manner worthy of his and their greatness.

CHAPTER XIII.

COLUMBUS PLEADS HIS CASE AT COURT.

The career of Columbus had already been marked by strong contrasts. First, a "pauper pilot," then the ruler of a New World, now hoping and fearing, low-spirited, and full of joy, he had passed through strange changes of good and evil fortune. But no two events of his life stand out so strong as his return to Spain after his first voyage and his return now. He was then a conqueror, he was now a prisoner. To the common people, the broad fact was this: Columbus had given Spain a New World; Spain loaded him with fetters in return. Public opinion began to change in his favor. The nation became conscious of ingratitude to its benefactor. The nobility were shocked at the insult to one of their order.

When the Sovereigns learned from Columbus of his arrival, and of his disgrace, they ordered that he be liberated at once, summoned him to their Court at Granada, sending him money to enable him to proceed there in a style fitting his rank. They received him with all possible favor, denied Bobadilla's acts, and promised him payment and satisfaction. They refused to inquire

into the charges against him, and dismissed them as not worthy of investigation.

But though the Sovereigns acted thus promptly n Columbus's behalf, they were secretly glad hat he had been removed. On each fresh discovery King Ferdinand repented more and more on having promised him one-eighth of the profits of the newly found lands. He thought that Columbus when once master of the great wealth that he supposed to be really within his grasp, would become more powerful than his master, and might throw off his allegiance altogether. Here was the chance to get rid of his bargain, by refusing on grounds of State policy, to put him back as ruler. Isabella, who had always been his firm friend, would not have thrown him over, but while the colonists were excited against him, it would be prudent that some one else should rule in his place.

The Queen granted Columbus a private hearing. He told his story with such simple eloquence, so pathetically, that his warm-hearted mistress was moved to tears by the recital. He told her of the difficulties he had met, and the dealings of the enemies who had always been thwarting him. He pleaded that he had to create a line of conduct for himself, having to deal with new circumstances without any previous rule to guide him.

PLEADING HIS CASE.

He begged the Queen to believe that the charges poured in against him were prompted by jealousy, and had no solid foundation in fact.

Isabella replied in a very sensible speech, telling him that she fully valued his services, and knew the rancor of his enemies, but she was afraid he had given some cause of complaint. "Common report," she said, "accuses you of acting with a degree of severity quite unsuited to an infant colony, and likely to excite rebellion there. But the matter on which I find it hardest to give you my pardon, is your conduct in making slaves of so many Indians who had done nothing to deserve such a fate. This was against my express orders. Just then, when I heard of this breach of my instructions, everybody was complaining of you, and no one spoke a word in your favor. I felt obliged to send an officer to look into these charges. I find I made a bad choice in my agent, and I will take care to make an example of Bobadilla, which shall serve as a warning to others not to exceed their powers. I cannot promise to re-instate you at once. As to your rank of admiral, I never intended to deprive you of it. But you must bide your time and trust in me."

It was fixed that the new governor should be appointed for two years only, and at the end of that time that Columbus might be trusted with

BLOODHOUNDS ATTACKING THE NATIVES.

the rule again. Ferdinand thought something might happen in that time to prevent Columbus ever being re-appointed. The words of Ovando's appointment were "that he is to be the governor as long as it is their Highnesses' will and pleasure."

Bobadilla was to be at once dismissed. His first object was to find the gold, and to secure this, he assigned all the natives as slaves to the colonists. A large number of the latter were the scourings of the Spanish prisons; they treated their wretched helots with savage brutality. Four times the amount of gold was got under Bobadilla's rule than under that of Columbus.

But when the Sovereigns heard of the cruelties which that system involved they urged forward the departure of Ovando, whom they had selected to be governor, and who, to judge from his previous career, was a man well fitted to rule with justice and mercy; and was known to hold all avarice and covetousness in much aversion. Among his orders from Isabella was one "that all the Indians in Hayti should be free from servitude, and be unmolested by any one, and that they should live as free vassals, ruled and protected by justice, as were the vassals of Castile." Like the vassals in Spain, the Indians were to pay tribute; they were also to assist in getting gold, but for this they were to be paid daily wages.

CARIB SLAVES MAKING SUGAR.

It was fixed that all those who received pay from the government in the Indies, as well those who went out with Bobadilla as those who had come out originally with Columbus, should return to Spain, and a new set to replace them should go out with Ovando. This was done because most of the soldiers and sailors had been mixed up in the troubles, and it would be a good plan to start fresh. No Jews, Moors, or new converts were to go to the Indies, or be permitted to stay there; but negro slaves "born in the power of the Christians were allowed to pass to the Indies, and the officers of the royal revenue were to receive the money to be paid for their permits." This is the first notice with respect to negroes. These orders were given in the year 1501.

Ovando was directed to, first of all, look to what concerns the reverence of God and his worship; to put only good men in office; the people were not to be overtaxed; that free audience was to be given to all; that he should encourage those who worked, and discourage the idle, as the universal Father does.

With these orders, Ovando left San Lucas, on February 13, 1503, with 2500 persons, a large part being hidalgos, that is, noblemen of the lowest class. He met a terrible storm on his way, and lost one of his largest vessels; and had some

difficulty in reaching St. Domingo at all, arriving on April 15, 1501, and began reforms at once.

He announced that Bobadilla was put under limits, and he had Roldan arrested. He tried to found settlements along the coast, and to carry out the just directions he had received with regard to the Indians. Like Bobadilla he was a knight of a religious order, and had a narrow way of looking at things; he had no special culture that we know of, and but little originality of character. Columbus had always treated the Indians with consideration and humanity; Ovando soon began to rule them with a rod of iron.

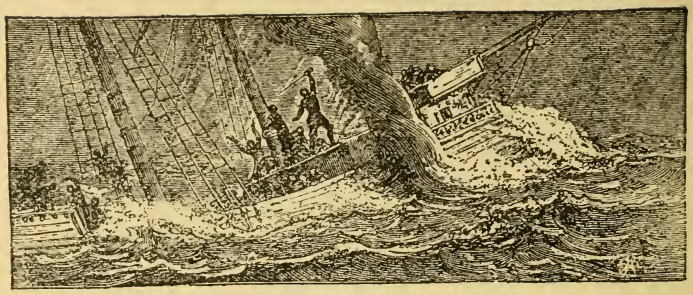
The Queen of Xaragua, whom Bartholomew Columbus tells us was a wise woman, of good manners, and pleasing address, received Ovando in great state. "She brought our men into the common hall, and had games, and feasts, and mock fights."

At this time (1503) some of Roldan's former followers had settled in Xaragua, and were a great trouble to the colony; and as might be expected there were constant rows between these Spaniards and the nearby Indians; and the Spaniards told the governor that these Indians intended to rebel. Perhaps they did so intend. Ovando set out for Xaragua, which was 200 miles from St. Domingo, with 70 horsemen and 300 soldiers. The

Queen met him and they spent some days in singing and dancing. But Ovando believed that an insurrection was intended, and with these thoughts in his mind, he got up a tournament, keeping the soldiers ready for action. The Queen fell into the snare. She invited all the Caciques to see the sports. Meanwhile the horsemen and soldiers surrounded the building. When Ovando made a sign they were to rush in and bind the Caciques and the Queen. They were all secured. The Queen alone was led out, the quarters were set fire to, and all the chiefs burned alive. The Queen was afterwards hanged, and the province was desolated. The followers of Roldan were then collected and formed a town, which was named the "City of true peace."

Columbus all this time was chafing at the idle life which was forced upon him. He formed a theory that some strait existed through which a passage might be made from St. Domingo to those regions in Asia, from which the Portuguese were just beginning to reap a large profit, and which must be very near that home of the gold which had always filled his thoughts. He pressed the Sovereigns for ships to find this strait. After some delays, and the usual bickerings he got the word: "We beg you to set out as soon as possible."

THE WAY OVANDO TREATED THE INDIANS.



CHAPTER XIV.

NEW ENTERPRISES.

On May 9, 1502, Columbus started out from Cadiz, with his brother, Bartholomew, and his second son, Fernando. On June 13, he reached Martinique. His orders were that he should not visit St. Domingo; but finding his largest ship needed repairs, he paid no heed to the prohibition, and sent a boat to ask Ovando to let him have a vessel in exchange for his damaged one, and to allow his ships to take refuge in the harbor during a hurricane which he foresaw was soon to come up.

Ovando refused both requests. He had a fleet ready to depart for Spain. This fleet was the richest in cargo that had ever left the islands. It had all the gold that Bobadilla had wrung out of

QUIETING THE GRUMBLERS.

the natives by his harsh measures. One nugget was the largest piece of virgin gold ever discovered. It was valued at $2000. Ferdinand and Isabella would get enough to nearly repay them for all their expenses on the new colony—if this fleet reached Spain in safety.

A terrible tornado came on; and of all the ships, only one,—and that the frailest of the fleet, reached Spain. Some of the vessels put back in distress to the island; but the greater number were lost at sea. The ship that carried Ovando's property reached Spain safely. Bobadilla, Roland, and their associates in cruelty and plunder, all were lost with their ill-gotten gains.

Columbus sailed along the coast, passing Jamaica. For nine weeks he made so little progress that his crews began to clamor to give up the expedition. The ships were worm-eaten and leaky, and food was running low. He argued that it was better to go on than to remain beating about the isles waiting to return home. On the coast of Honduras there appeared a canoe, more like the ships of the Old World than any they had yet seen, manned by twenty-five Indians, who had come from the Continent on a trading voyage among the islands. They had cotton fabrics, iron-wood swords, flint knives, copper axe-heads, and a fruit called cacoa, which made a good beverage.

THE CARIB BATTLE.

Columbus treated these people kindly, and won their good will by giving them some of the glittering toys which never failed to dazzle the savage eye.

Columbus picked out an old Indian to go with him as a pilot. This Indian made signs that there was a land not far distant where there were ships, and arms, and goods similar to the Spaniards'; and said he could lead him there.

Had Columbus followed his first intention, and steered to the west, a few hours would have brought him to Yucatan; and the riches of Mexico would have rewarded his discovery. But this savage crossed his path at the critical moment, and turned him from the road to fortune.

Steering along the coast of Honduras, on September 12, he reached Cape Gracias. In October, he entered several of the bays on the Isthmus of Panama. Here he got food, and fixed up his vessels; but no signs of the kingdom of the great Khan, or the strait, which he fancied might lead him there. Upon his mooring his vessels close to the shore, the Indians attacked him, and were only repulsed by the guns, the thunder and lightning of which in their eyes possessed sacred character. He had a meeting with one of the tribes, who showed great alarm when the notary made notes of the talk. They had never seen writing, and it had a magic effect on them.

INDIANS BURNING THE HUTS WITH ARROWS.

It was not until December 5, that Columbus could resolve to give up his easterly course. He had scarcely turned back, intending to settle on the river Veragua, when he ran into a furious storm. Thunder and lightning were incessant; the waterspouts (the first they had seen) threatened to engulf them; huge crests of waves burst in floods over them; and their escape was little less than a miracle. After eight days tossing to and fro, he gained the mouth of a river.

Here was a powerful Cacique, named Quibia, in whose lands was much gold, and with him the Spaniards were eager to treat. But he outwitted them. Offering to supply them with guides to his mines, he really sent them to the mines of a rival Cacique. Here, they succeeded by barter, in getting large quantities of gold, which seemed so abundant, that Columbus made sure that he had come to that place where Solomon obtained the gold for the Temple at Jerusalem. He saw more signs of gold here in two days than he had seen in St. Domingo in four years.

He started to form a settlement to provide a depot for the gold which might be collected. A village of huts was built where 80 of the crew were to remain while Columbus returned to Spain for supplies.

News came to them that the village was to be

INDIAN REVENGES.

attacked, so Columbus took means to capture Quibia in his own palace. The Indians, dismayed at the capture of the Cacique, offered large lots of gold for his ransom; but he was kept as a hostage for peace. As he was being brought down the river, in one of the boats, he managed, though bound hand and foot, and in charge of a powerful Spaniard, to spring overboard, and to make his escape, swimming under water to the shore. There was now war to the knife, between the natives and the settlers. An attempt was made to burn down the village by means of blazing arrows. A boat's crew of eleven Spaniards were attached by savages in canoes, and only one man escaped to tell of the massacre.

Columbus with three of the caravels was waiting for a good wind for his departure. The dry weather made the river so shallow that the caravel left with the settlers could not cross the bar. They were in despair; for if they were left, they knew they were left to perish. Columbus became uneasy at not hearing from them; not knowing that their only good boat had been destroyed by the Indians. Some of Quibia's family who had been taken on board the fleet as prisoners, made their escape by swimming to the shore, three miles off. This feat encouraged one of the pilots to undertake a similar exploit. There never was

a man more welcomed. News of the desperate state of affairs was got to Columbus and in a few days all the settlers were taken on board the fleet.

Making his way to Porto Bello, where he left one of the ships as no longer seaworthy, May 31, 1503, Columbus quitted the coast and steered for Cuba. Two of his ships collided, making them more unfit to cope with the squalls and breakers. At last in the middle of June, with his crews in despair, his vessels worm-eaten, so as to be "as full of holes as a honeycomb," he reached Cuba, when he got food from the friendly natives.

Failing to make head against the wind so as to reach Hayti, Columbus shaped his course for Jamaica, and there his voyage ended. As his ships could not float any longer, he ran them on shore, side by side, and built huts upon the decks for housing the crews. These houses also made good positions in case of attack by a hostile tribe. No Spaniard was to go ashore without leave. Diego Mendez, one of the boldest of the officers, marched into the interior of the island to arrange for food supplies, from some remote tribes. The natives brought fish, game, and cazava-bread in trade for toys and ornaments.

The Spaniards were thus secured from starvation, for the present, but their position was a hard

one. Between Columbus and Hayti was a strait 120 miles in breadth, full of tumbling breakers and rushing currents, which separated the two islands. Attempts to cross had to be made, and Mendez agreed to try it, though "he thought it not merely difficult, but impossible to cross in so small a vessel as a canoe." He had a letter to Ovando, asking him to send a vessel to release the castaways, and a dispatch to the Sovereigns, giving a glowing description of the riches of Veragua.

Mendez and a comrade set out along the coast in a canoe manned by six Indians. They were met by a tribe of savages, who carried them off as captives. The beads and toys which Mendez had taken with him to barter with the natives, took the whole attention of his conquerors, and while they were settling the shares of the spoil, Mendez managed to escape to his canoe, and return in safety to his companions. A second canoe was got ready, and Mendez this time took a big enough force to protect him from the hostile tribes.

On July 7, 1503, the armed escort started off, and reached Hayti three days later. They suffered for want of fresh water. One more day's labor at the oar brought them to Cape Tiburon where Mendez left his companions, and went on alone to St. Domingo. He was told that Ovando had

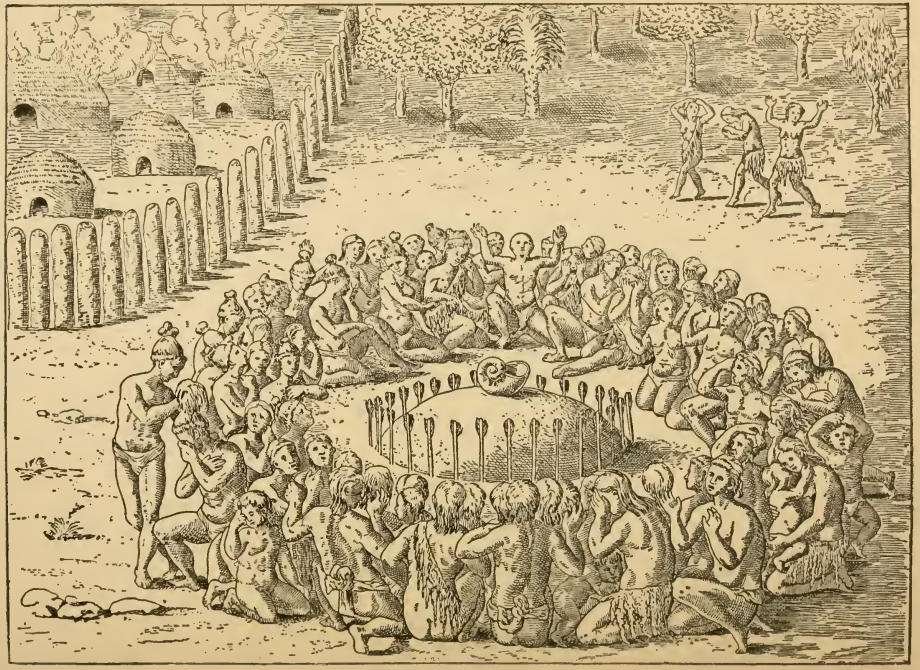
INDIAN WORSHIP.

gone to Xaragua, and there he made his way alone through fifty miles of wild forest to show Ovando the need of sending relief at once to Columbus.

Ovando dreaded the return of Columbus. He took no active steps in the matter himself, and it was only with reluctance that he allowed Mendez to proceed to St. Domingo, and buy a ship on behalf of Columbus, and bring him off.

Meanwhile, month after month went by, the castaways getting no news from Hayti. At last, in January, 1504, the murmurs against the inaction of Columbus broke out into open mutiny. The captain of one of the ships told Columbus that he thought he was afraid to return to Spain, but they had determined to wait no longer but to go at once. On this there were shouts of, "To Castile! We follow!"

Taking possession of the canoes, the mutineers set out for Hayti, leaving Columbus and his brother with scarcely any but those whose sickness prevented them from going along. They seized on all the food they could get, telling the owners that Columbus would pay for it. The attempts to cross over failed on account of the rough weather. So the rebels gave up the idea of reaching Hayti and roamed over the island, quartering themselves on the Indians, and committing every possible



INDIAN FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

excess. This conduct strained the relations between Columbus and the natives. The good will they first showed to the white men gave way to contempt and hatred, and they refused to supply their wants any longer; famine was now before them.

Just at this last extremity Columbus, ever fertile in devices, thought of a way of regaining his influence over the Indians. He knew that an eclipse of the moon would soon take place. He invited all the Caciques to visit him. Then he said, "The God who protects me will punish you. You know what has happened to my people who have rebelled against me. My followers crossed to Hayti without trouble; while the others suffered no end of dangers. Soon, too, shall the divine wrath fall on you; this very night the moon shall change her color, and lose her light, as a mark of what will fall upon you from the skies."

The night was fine; the moon shone down in full splendor. But the change took place as Columbus had foretold, and the wild howls of the savages showed their terror. They promised he should want for nothing if he would only avert this judgment; and they hastily collected a quantity of food, and laid it at his feet. He consented to pray for them; and soon the terrible shadow passed away from the face of the moon; and the

THE SPANISH MUTINY.

savages were happy. The supply of food was now regular.

Eight months passed away without any tidings from Mendez, when one evening a caravel showed in the harbor. A boat put off from the caravel with a message from Ovando, saying he hoped before long to send a ship large enough to take them all off. Ovando simply wanted to learn what was the real condition of Columbus.

Columbus told his followers that he had refused to depart alone. He would share their lot and wait for the speedy help that was promised. The rebels now planned to capture the ships, and seize the admiral. Columbus prepared for the assault. A fierce fight ensued, the rebels were whipped, and their leaders carried as prisoners to the ships.

The Indians who saw this fight were much puzzled. They came and looked at the dead, thrusting their fingers into their wounds. The rebels now surrendered to Columbus, who granted a pardon to them, but kept them on the shore. And so the two bands of castaways—one on ship, and one on shore—waited for the promised help.

CHAPTER XV.

FALLING FORTUNES.—CONCLUSION.

It was not till June 28, 1504, that their sight was gladdened by the view of the two caravels which had been sent—one by Mendez, the other by Ovando—to their relief. They boarded the ships at once, but bad winds made the voyage to Hayti a long one, and the two vessels did not reach St. Domingo till August 13, 1504.

Much to the surprise of Columbus he found himself treated with great respect by Ovando. Trouble arose as to matters of law, and as to who was the person in full power. But Columbus was anxious to return to Spain, and a month after his arrival here he started homeward in the caravel which had brought him from Jamaica.

Even his last voyage was a sad one. Care and sorrow followed him by land and sea. Twice his vessel nearly sank. His health was giving out, he was nearly ruined in means, and felt hopeless as to being further employed by the Sovereigns. Feeling thus, on November 7, 1504 he landed at Seville, in as miserable a plight as his worst enemy could have wished.

He could scarcely expect to be received with much favor at Court. He had failed in his enterprise, had lost his ships; he brought home wonderful stories of golden lands, but no gold.

Poor, old, infirm, he was now to receive news which was to deepen all his evils. He was too unwell to make a journey himself, so he sent his son Diego to Court to manage his affairs for him. On November 26, 1504 the great Queen (Isabella) died. Her death was a fatal blow to the fortunes of Columbus. While she lived he had something to hope for from her high sense of justice and her gratitude for his services. When she was gone, he was left to the justice and generosity of Ferdinand.

Columbus did not live long after his only friend. He spent his time now trying to induce King Ferdinand to make his son the ruler of the Indies, as it had been agreed. Ferdinand did not refuse outright. This breach of faith would have been too flagrant. But he turned the matter over to a Council, who, knowing the King's wishes, let the matter drag.

Shortly after the arrival of Philip and his Queen in Spain, Columbus wrote that "despite his gout he could yet do them service the like of which had not been seen." Whether he meant in the way of advice as to Indian affairs; or thought of voyages

of further discovery, can never be known. He was, alas, to make but one more journey,—the final one to his home of rest.

We will not linger over his death-bed. Having received all the sacraments of the Church, Columbus died, at Valladolid, on Ascension Day, May 20, 1506. His remains were carried to Seville, and buried in the monastery of San Cuevas. His son Diego was also buried here.

We are told that Ferdinand, after the death of Columbus, showed a sense of his merits by ordering a monument to be erected to his memory, bearing the motto, which had been formally granted to him by the Sovereigns :

TO CASTILE AND LEON COLUMBUS
GAVE A NEW WORLD.

His remains were afterwards removed, in 1536, to St. Domingo, that they might rest in the New World he had discovered. They did not rest in quiet even here. After 200 years they were taken to the Cathedral at Havana, where they now rest.

THE END.

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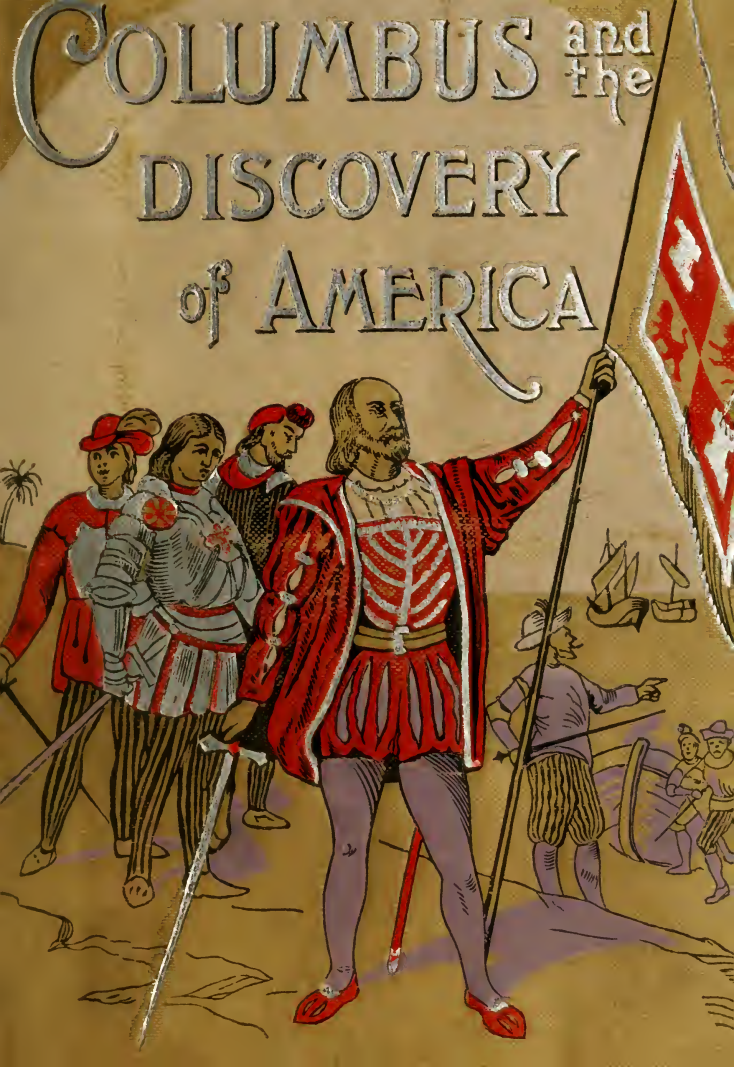

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